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COMMONS MAY SOON UNDERGO MAJOR CHANGES

By NICOLE POLLACK
Staff Writer

The Residential Life System is poised to undergo major changes, which could include building renovations, a new student center, and the elimination of a commons dean.

After a 10-month review, members of the How We Will Live Together Steering Committee charged with reimagining the system presented its recommendations to the community in a forum Tuesday evening.

The Student Government Association (SGA), Community Council and the steering committee hosted the forum in Wilson Hall. After the presentation of the draft's seven key recommendations, the floor was open to discussion, and students expressed their concerns about issues including ADA compliance and changes to staff positions.

The draft is the culmination of an extensive review of the college's Residential Life system, which included surveys of staff and student feedback as well as internal and external reviews. Those reviews showed discontent with the second-year aspects of the commons system, dissatisfaction with social spaces on campus and feelings of isolation among minority students, low-income students and Febs.

"What we now have is one of the most expensive residential systems among all of our peer institutions, with some of the poorest outcomes, particularly around student satisfaction," said Robert Moeller, assistant professor of Psychology and co-chair of the steering committee, in an email to The Campus. "It is time to make some changes."

The new draft recommendations prioritize improving housing and infrastructure. Its main suggestions include renovating

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BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The new mural in McCullough Student Center, titled Higher Wisdom, was unveiled last Wednesday, Feb. 13 at an afternoon ceremony. It was a collaboration between Community Muralist and Educator Will Kasso Condry, International Muralist Isias Crow, various students at the college and a mural planning committee.

1,700 Pounds of Dining Dishes Go Unreturned

By SARAH ASCH
Editor-at-Large

Middlebury dining halls generally accommodate students' desires to eat where they want. Whether that means taking plates of food outside when it is sunny, eating in Proctor Lounge or deciding to take food back to a dorm room, students have freedom to dine where they choose.

College staff say that oftentimes students abuse this privilege, creating a nightmare scenario for custodians in the process. Many students opt to abandon dirty plates and silverware in dorm bathrooms, hallways and kitchens. Some students even throw dirty dishes in the trash.

Missy Beckwith, the associate director of Facilities Services, said that this is a persistent problem that adds significant unpleasant work for staff who end up collecting dishes from residential spaces.

"These dishes tend to attract bugs and rodents and begin to smell," she said. "So, while it is not expected that custodial teams return the dishes or even pick them up, they do."

Cindy Webb, a custodian who works in Hadley Hall, said she leaves whatever dishes she may find for a few days to see if a student will pick them up before she does so herself. Webb also confirmed that she often finds dishes in the trash, even though she works in a dorm attached to Ross Dining Hall.

"Just in my trash bin over in the middle of second floor Hadley, I pulled out 14 cups, two plates and a bowl in two days," she said. "The last few years I felt like it had tapered off and then for whatever reason this year it's worse again."

Webb estimated that about 80 percent of the dishes she comes across while making her rounds in the dorms are in the garbage.

Even when custodians see dishes in the trash, Beckwith said they are not supposed to remove them for health and safety reasons.

"The contents of the average trash or recycling bin can be hazardous — broken glass, improperly disposed needles, pathogens," she said. "While the custodial staff wears gloves when removing trash, it is unreasonable to ask them to suit up in the personal protective equipment required to rummage through a bag of trash."

While custodians like Webb who work in Ross are able to return recovered dishes directly to the dining hall, custodians in other dorms are not able to fit such trips into their already busy schedules. Instead, they typically place dorm dishes on the curb with the trash to be taken down to the Recycling Center.

There, waste management workers set the dishes aside in storage bins. They also open up trash bags and sort through the garbage, pulling out any plates, cups or silverware they see and storing them alongside the dishes

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BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students enjoy the beautiful weather on Saturday while celebrating Winter Carnival at Rikert (top), the SnowBowl (bottom) and the skating show featuring Yiyi Jin (middle).

COURTESY PHOTO

Alondra Carmona (left) and Hannah Krutiansky led students on a MAlt trip to San Antonio over Feb break, where they worked with the immigrantion advocacy group RAICES.

MAlt Trip Brings Students to Southern Border to Assist Asylum Seekers

By HANNAH BENSEN
Contributing Writer

"That's going to be you in a couple years," an asylum-seeking immigrant mother said to her daughter, pointing to Middlebury student Alondra Carmona '21.

Carmona was providing legal service to the mother and her daughter on a Middlebury Alternative Break trip (MAlt trip). The mother and daughter were at a bus station heading to Carmona's hometown of Chicago after being held in a family detention center near San Antonio. For Carmona, an immigrant who came with her parents to the U.S. at age three from Mexico, the parallels were uncanny.

Carmona and Hannah Krutiansky '19 led a group of 10 other Middlebury students on a MAlt trip over February break focused on immigration advocacy in San Antonio. The group worked with a nonprofit agency, Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), that provides free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families and refugees.

"This is the frontlines of the immigration fight," Krutiansky said. "This is the trenches. These are people recently arriving at the border, seeking asylum, suffering through our messed-up, convoluted immigration system. And we are jumping in and working with them directly and trying to make sense of this."

Krutiansky and Carmona directed their efforts towards separate phases of the asylum-seeking process. Krutiansky, who has worked for RAICES for the past two summers, helped asylum seekers prepare for their "Credible Fear Interview" at Karnes Detention Center near San Antonio. For these asylum seekers, this interview is the difference between deportation and a chance at a new life. Asylum seekers must demonstrate that if they are deported, they will face discrimination or persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion or a membership in a particular social group.

Spanish proficiency was a requirement for the trip participants, who helped make each person's story as compelling as possible to the asylum officer who would be deciding their case.

"It's really challenging because

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Students learn about police power in J-Term
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MAlt Travels to Southern Border

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a lot of them might be illiterate or [only speak an] indigenous [language], or they might be really traumatized," Krutiansky said. "We help to get their story down linearly and hit important points like why the police couldn't protect them, why they couldn't relocate in their country. We orient them because most of them might have claims but most of them don't know how to phrase their story that will fit into the box."

Meanwhile, Carmona and three other trip participants gave legal orientations at the bus station that will transport asylum-seekers and immigrants to their sponsor or final destination.

"It was basically post-release services: (explaining) your rights, helping interpret and translate their papers," Carmona said. "It's a new setting. The detention center is basically a jail for them. So when they're released, one of the things that they told us is it's the first time they are meeting a friendly face. You're the first person that's telling them, 'Welcome to the United States.'"

Immigrants and asylum have to parse through "packages" — thick stacks of papers filled with legalistic jargon that contains important information and dates. The MAlt participants translated this information and explained that the two sets of dates that asylum seekers needed to keep track of: court dates that were necessary to obtain asylum and check-ins with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE). Missing either one of these appointments could result in a deportation notice.

The asylum-seeking process is complex and differs slightly depending on an immigrant's status as an unaccompanied minor, an adult, or a family. Immigrants are either apprehended at the border or express fear of returning to their home country at a port of entry. They are held in pre-detention processing facilities, likened to an ice box ("la hielera") by detainees due to its freezing temperatures and a dog pound ("la perrera") for its chain link fences.

Immigrant families are then sent to family detention centers, where they must pass the Credible Fear Interview. There are three family detention centers in the United States. Karnes, where the MAlt participants worked, and Dilley are located in Texas, while Berks family detention center is in Pennsylvania. The centers are operated by for-profit private prison companies like CoreCivic and GEO group.

Those who pass are transferred to the bus station. After this process, the immigrants still have no legal status and are required to continue to the asylum process outside of detention.

Krutiansky and Carmona were vividly aware of the high stakes of their work. Most asylum seekers are fleeing some form of gang violence, Krutiansky said, particularly from the region known as the "Northern triangle" of Central America: El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. Many immigrants faced the threat of extortion and murder if they returned to their home countries. Other immigrants were political activists or victims of domestic abuse. Some immigrants were indigenous people escaping crippling poverty resulting from discrimination. However, economic migrants are not qualified for refugee status under asylum law.

"The policies are so absurd," Carmona said. "The fact that (a participant) had to interview someone and she knew that he was in danger of basically dying if he went back to his home country. And yet that was exactly what was going to happen."

The news cycle has been dominated by issues of immigration in the past year, in large part due to President Trump's "zero tolerance" policy, enacted in April 2018, to prosecute every illegal entry case into the United States. Soon after, media outlets reported over 2,300 cases of family separation when parents were criminally prosecuted while children were treated as "unaccompanied alien children" and handled by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Trump then issued an executive order on June 20 stating that "it is also the policy of this Administration to maintain family unity" thereby ending the practice of family separation.

With all the media noise, the MAlt experience pushed participants to confront the realities of the immigration debate.

"We've all heard about the horrible situation that immigrants go through," Carmona said. "We have the luxury of ignoring these stories. When you talk to these people, you're making connections and they could be your parents and your aunts and uncles. The people and their stories make it impossible to ignore the struggles they go through."

With grueling days that started at 9 a.m. and lasted until as late as 8 p.m., Krutiansky said that many participants are still processing what they saw. Many expressed outrage at the current immigration system, and hope to return as volunteers to RAICES.

"It really fuels you," Krutiansky said. "Middlebury students are smart and they are going to be in important positions one day. For them to have seen this experience and take it with them, the choices they're going to make and the influence they're going to have — I think that's the biggest takeaway."

COURTESY PHOTO

Middlebury students experience first hand what President Trump has deamed a National Emergency, providing guidance to immigrants who have recently crossed the Southern boarder.

College Gathers Commons Feedback

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Battell Hall, reclaiming lounge areas currently being used as student rooms or office spaces, eliminating restrictions on sophomore residency, increasing support for students staying on campus during breaks, improving integration of Febs into the rest of the campus community and constructing or developing a new student center.

"We need a student center," said Derek Doucet, associate dean of students for student activities & orientation and one of the heads of the steering committee. Although McCullough Student Center is an important space, he said, it is not a true student center, since the building currently houses staff offices, a faculty and staff lounge, and the Mail Center. Crossroads Café and the Grille have limited open hours and remain locked when closed.

Another critical element of the proposal is improvements to new student experiences. This pertains to all aspects of new student orientation, including First@Midd, International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS), orientation trips and better placement of Febs. The goal of the proposal is to create an improved residential education program with clearly communicated, measurable goals and outcomes.

The proposal also suggests changes to the placement and role of commons deans. The five current deans would be reduced to four and assigned to first-year seminars instead of commons, and would work in designated offices in a more central location. They would be partnered with a newly designated case manager, whose tasks would include consolidating the presently disjointed student care practices and transforming administrative support for students in crisis from a reactive process to a proactive one.

Deans' work would be refocused on student support, with some of their additional roles delegated to other staff members. The draft recommendations also include the repurposing of commons houses, all with the goal of deepening the connection between students and the faculty and staff associated with their commons.

"How are we keeping the coziness of ResLife?" asked John Cambefort '21, a Wonnacott First Year Counselor (FYC), during the forum.

Doucet responded that closeness and immediate accessibility remain important considerations in the steering committee's decision making process. He also acknowledged that many of his colleagues and students have a strong investment in the present system and that for those students the process can be an emotional one.

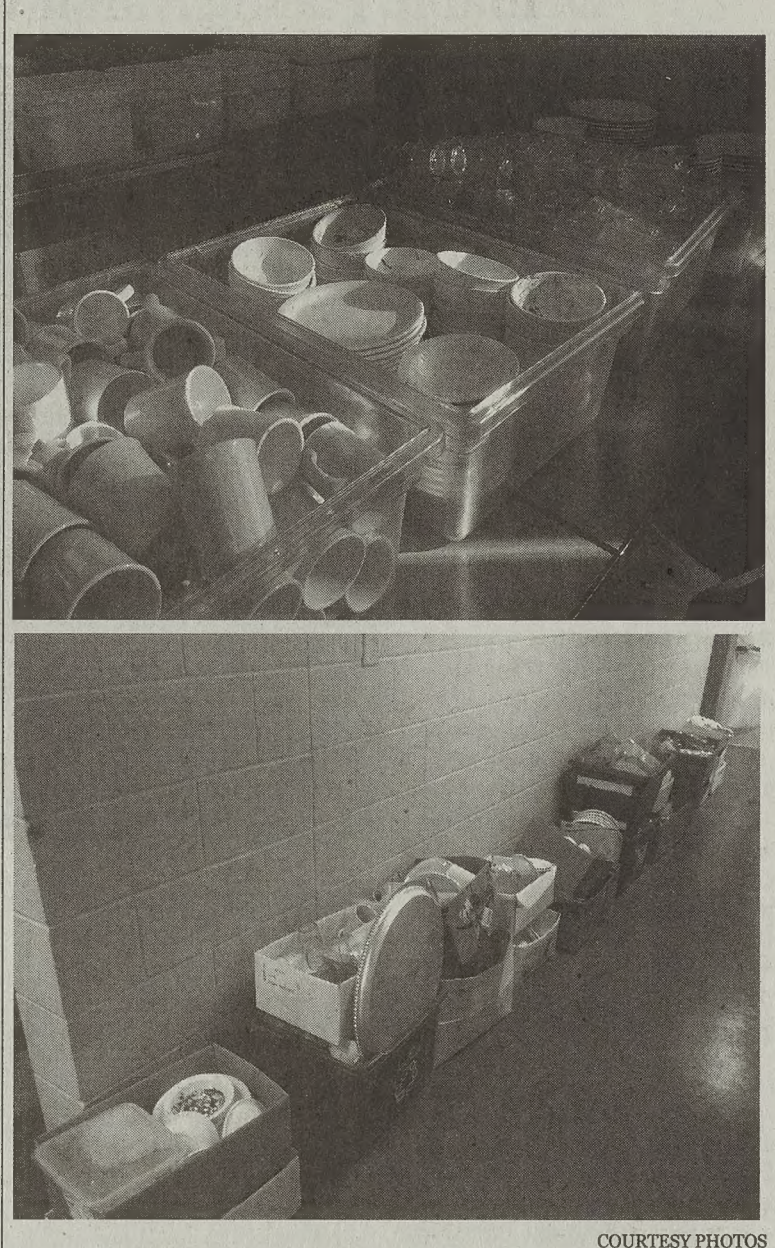
After the forum concluded, Ross FYC Steph Miller '20 told The Campus she was concerned that newly consolidated Deans' offices would be "less cozy, less homey, less accessible, less social."

The Friday before the forum, Doucet spoke to the intercommons Residential Life team about the proposed changes. Still, several members of Residential Life who attended Tuesday's forum mentioned feeling excluded from the development of the recommendations.

During the public comment period of the forum, Doucet asked that everyone look through the full draft, available now at go/livetogether, and share their questions and concerns online. After incorporating feedback and making final edits, the committee will submit a final report to Baishakhi Taylor, dean of students and vice president of student affairs, and the Senior Leadership Group, who will decide which aspects of the plan, if any, will be incorporated into the residential system.

"A critical thing to acknowledge is that depending on which recommendations are ultimately adopted, implementation may be an extended and iterative process," Doucet said in an email to The Campus. "We're virtually certain to make mistakes along the way, so careful and ongoing assessment, an area where we've frankly been weak in the past, will be essential."

The Big Dish Problem



COURTESY PHOTOS

At the end of Winter Term, the dining halls recieved nearly 1,700 pounds of dishes that students had abandoned and thrown away across campus.

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picked up from other locations.

According to Waste Management Supervisor Kim Bickham, once the bins are full, they send the dishes back up the hill to the dining halls. Bickham said that on average half of the dishes they see are in the trash and half have been collected elsewhere.

"We bring them back to the dining halls once a month, or more often if we have to," Bickham said. "We return on average 600 to 700 pounds of dishes a month."

Executive Director of Food Service Operations Dan Detora said that at the end of Winter Term the dining hall received far more dishes than usual — a whopping 1,700 pounds. Detora said that big returns like that often happen before breaks.

When dishes arrive from the Recycling Center they are uniquely difficult to clean after having been stored with food on them for weeks.

"They have to soak at least two days, at least, because they are filthy," he said. "Then we run them through the dishwasher once or twice, typically twice because they are just nasty."

Randy Bushey works in the dishroom in Ross and helps when dishes arrive from the recycling center.

"A lot of them come back with mold and stuff. They are really really disgusting and I don't think people understand or know that," Bushey said. "There's times where the aroma just fills the room and I have to leave to go get my breath."

He said the hardest food to get off month-old plates is fried eggs.

Some of the dishes are so dirty and moldy that they are unsalvageable and have to be thrown away. This, along with normal wear and tear, causes Dining Services to spend up to $20,000 a year on replacement dishes.

Webb pointed out that this wastes both money and resources. "The dining hall has a budget. That's what they have to work with," she said. "Do you want to have quality food? Or do you want to just keep buying dishes? And to think about the impact on the environment too, how much ends up in the landfill, it's kind of ridiculous."

Dining Services and Facilities have struggled to solve the problem. A few years ago, Detora said they added the dish racks outside of Ross and Proctor to make it easier for students to return dishes after hours.

Detora also said they created the to-go box program in the hope that students would remove fewer plates from dining halls, but it has not made much of a difference.

Webb said that the college used to impose fines on hallways that left dishes out, but she raised concerns about the fairness of that practice.

"I seriously objected to that because I felt that students that could not afford to pay their portion of the fine would be the ones that would end up picking the dishes up," she said.

Others, including Cook Commons Coordinator Francisca Drexel, think that students should be prevented from removing dishes from dining halls in the first place.

Or, as Detora pointed out, students could fix this problem by returning their dishes.

"I get it, students are busy. But I really wish they would just bring back their dishes," he said. "It would be a tremendous help to a whole lot of people if they would just bring their dishes back on a regular basis. And if they want something to go, get a to-go container. That's the whole idea of the program."

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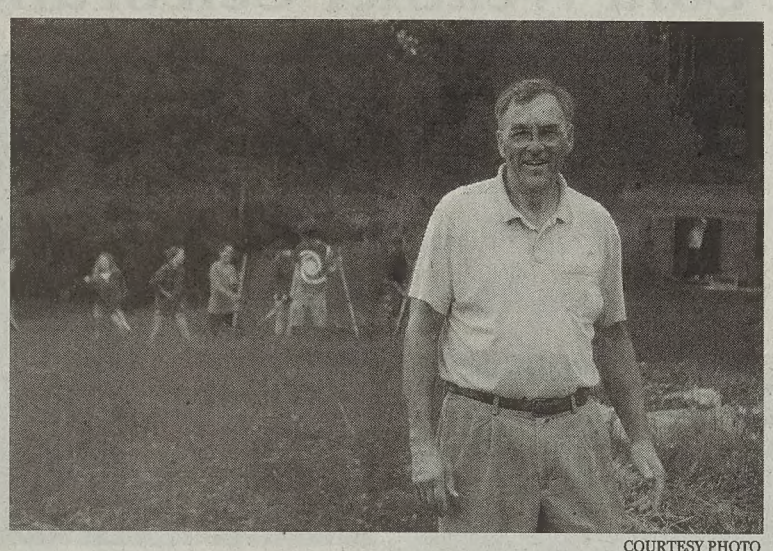
Middlebury Shelters Grapple with Increased Demand, Facing Harsh Weather

By NORA PEACHIN
Staff Writer



COURTESY PHOTO

Doug Sinclair at the Charter House Community Garden.

MIDDLEBURY - Homelessness in Vermont is sometimes hidden within the state's signature rolling green hills and idyllic pastures. Though the issue may not be as obvious or prevalent in Vermont as in urban centers across the country, it is nonetheless a serious and growing problem.

The Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) recently released a report showing that homelessness increased from 2016 to 2018. The winter months, in particular, can create life-threatening situations for those experiencing homelessness.

Between October and April, organizations across the state work to meet the increased demand for shelter caused by extreme cold weather. Doug Sinclair, co-director of Charter House Coalition, explained that "shelter life is not easy ... so, in the warmer months, some people prefer to camp. Many official and nonofficial campgrounds have people living there who are homeless, even if it's not apparent."

Middlebury's Charter House provides clients with a Winter Warming Shelter from Oct. 15 to April 15 annually. As reported by The Campus earlier this year, the shelter opened on Sept. 1. The need is especially pronounced by Dec. 1, according to Sinclair.

Peter Kellerman, co-director of the John Graham Housing & Services in Vergennes, Vt., noted a similar trend of increased need in the winter. But Kellerman continued, "we're full year-round and maintain a waitlist. There's a greater need during winter months, but the truth is, we're always full."

"Need seems to have grown every year over the last 10 years," Sinclair observed. This may have to do with a variety of factors.

Firstly, there is a lack of employment opportunities, and the jobs that are available do not have adequate wages. The National Low Income Housing Coalition released a report last year showing that "both average renter wages and prevailing minimum wages are insufficient to afford modest rental apartments throughout the country." According to the report, a federal minimum wage earner would have to work 122 hours per week for 52 weeks per year, in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

"A lot of retail minimum wage jobs are available [in Vermont], which don't create enough of an income to sustain housing," Kellerman explained.

"Folks who could've afforded to live on their wages 15 years ago, have ended up in a situation where they just don't have enough income to afford housing," Sinclair said, echoing Kellerman.

Dawn Butterfield, treasurer for the VCEH, elaborated on the issue. "The cost of living in Vermont is pretty high; some scales rate it number 42 in affordability. Wages have not kept pace with the cost of living, so households with moderate incomes are falling farther and farther behind," she stated.

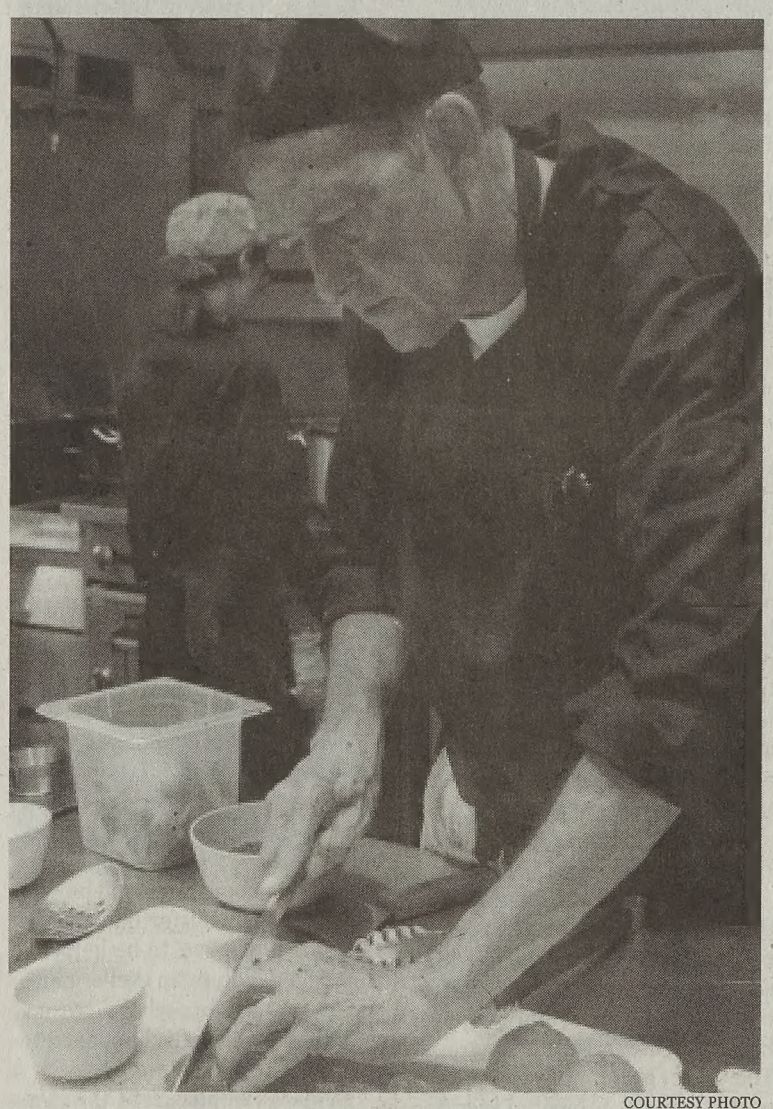
These problems are compounded by a severe shortage of affordable housing. "There is a less than 1 percent vacancy rate for affordable housing in Addison County," Sinclair noted. "Someone can have a [housing] voucher to help them with rent, but can't find an apartment because it's not there, so they lose the voucher." Butterfield agreed that "truly affordable housing is rarely found."

In Addison County, a perfect storm of events contributed to this shortage leaving many experiencing homelessness in vulnerable positions. Previously, three motels accepted housing vouchers. One however — The Blue Spruce Motel – was destroyed in a fire in 2017 , and another, Greystone, now Middlebury Sweets Motel, was sold to "folks who are less inclined to receive people with vouchers," as characterized by Kellerman.

> ***"But I think it's worth taking a chance ... because people are suffering."***

This left just one, the Sugarhouse, that according to Kellerman, also holds some "reticence." Those experiencing homelessness can have "complex service needs, such as mental illness or addiction, so the experience for the proprietor is not always great," he continued.

Those who are lucky enough to find affordable housing may still face a multitude of challenges in acquiring and retaining the housing. Landlords may be reluctant to "Landlords, both public and private, are loathe to take chances on people who have a poor rental history whether because of payment issues, violence, or crime. That's understandable, of course, but it does make it challenging to find housing for people, even when they have made changes in their lives that might make them 'better' tenants," Butterfield said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Portraits from CVOEO's annual review.

People experiencing homelessness are also more likely to suffer from severe mental illness, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless. "You have to think about domestic violence victims, addiction, mental illness, and people who have experienced extreme trauma," Kellerman said. "There are a lot of layers to homelessness and how people get affected."

Butterfield also mentioned the impact of the opioid crisis on increased homelessness. People experiencing homelessness are disproportionately affected by substance abuse and overdose, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Additionally, the Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018 identified stable housing as a critical part of treatment and recovery. These factors left homeless populations across the nation very much at risk to be impacted by the opioid crisis

Finally, Kellerman spoke about the effect of the changing political landscape. "People have been staying with us longer and longer. There is fear [on the part of the clients], because much of the human services funding we rely on has been threatened."

Kellerman also noted that state agencies are taking a conservative approach following the government shutdown. "They want to make sure they'll be able to sustain what's already active, and don't want to hand out too much," he said. "But I think it's worth taking a chance... because people are suffering."

In order to address this daunting problem, organizations in each county of Vermont work together on a process called Coordinated Entry. Developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the process is intended to "make sure the most vulnerable among us are housed the quickest," explained Jan Demers, Executive Director of the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO).

Organizations find available housing, use a vulnerability assessment to look at who is most in need of housing, and then assess what those people need to get into the housing, Demers elaborated. "Even though there may be more households in need, the process of being referred by one of multiple community partners and assessed for level and type of housing need, means we are able to more quickly get people the help they need," Butterfield said.

Despite the efforts of organizations such as CVOEO, VCEH and shelters, more support is needed to tackle the problem of homelessness in Vermont. For example, Kellerman discussed the importance of ongoing support for formerly homeless people when they are housed.

"When they acquire housing, there's a new set of stressors, and what had them at risk in the first place doesn't disappear that quickly. After people are safely housed, ongoing outreach is essential," he said..

Demers agreed, and pointed out that "funding is no longer there for agencies like CVOEO, and other social service agencies, that used to get funding for supportive services for people who are recently housed." She agreed that being able to follow people, especially through their first year being housed, would be beneficial.

Butterfield brought up multiple other points including the creation of more "truly affordable housing for households with limited incomes and more money to subsidize rents. He went on to describe the importance of supporting case management for households with multiple barriers to obtaining and retaining housing, as well as more incentives like risk pools so landlords are more willing to take chances on challenging tenants.

Community can also be important in supporting people experiencing homelessness. "If you're

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Vermont's Budding Industry: Next State to Tax & Regulate Cannabis?

By SADIE HOUSBERG
Senior Local Editor

For those Vermonters advocating for a tax-and-regulate cannabis market, new legislation moving through both the House and the Senate could herald welcome changes.

A bill proposed by Representative Sam Young (D-Greensboro) on Friday, Feb. 8, would progressively implement a commercial marijuana market in the state of Vermont. H.196, an act relating to the regulation of cannabis and cannabis products for commercial and medical purposes, would permit adults to buy marijuana starting Jan. 1, 2020.

"It seems like there's a lot more support of this bill than there has been in the past," Rep. Young said. With 52 sponsors, many of whom are newly elected Democratic and Progressive representatives, Young is hopeful that H.196 will make it through the House.

Though legislation to establish a tax-and-regulate weed market has previously seen significant support in the Senate, according to Young this has not been the case in the House. He attributes much of the recent outpouring of support for H.196 to a "new generation" of members, referring to the majority Vermont Democrats in the Statehouse gained in last year's midterm elections.

The relatively robust support for a tax-and-regulate market in the Senate is evident in the Vermont Senate Judiciary Committee's recent support of S.54, another act relating to the regulation of cannabis. On Friday, Feb. 15, the Judiciary Committee gave approval to the bill, which must now make its way through additional committees before becoming eligible for deliberation before the whole Senate.

"We think this bill is fundamentally what it should be: consumer protection legislation that will not only keep cannabis consumers safer but will also improve the public health and public safety of the state as a whole," said Laura Subin, Director of the Vermont Coalition to Regulate Marijuana (VCRM), in testimony on Jan 30.

H.196 differs from the Senate bill because it would allow existing dispensaries to begin selling commercially under specific regulations before new companies can open while S.54 would not. In order to sell to get a foot in the market early and begin selling to the general public in advance of Jan. 1, 2020, current dispensaries would have to pay a $75,000 fee under the House measure.

Some hold, like Rep. Young, that establishing a commercial industry is important for Vermont's economic health as well as its public safety.

"Massachusetts has it [a tax & regulate market] up and running," he said. "So why should we send all of our tax dollars out of state when we have real needs here?"

The burgeoning retail marijuana industry is comprised of a relatively young workforce that could potentially bolster Vermont's population, Young commented. According to the World Population Review, the current population of the Green Mountain State is declining at .12 percent per year.

"But my primary thinking behind sponsoring the bill," Young clarified, "is to have a safe market because it [marijuana] is legal now. We need to have a safe and legal means for people to acquire it."

Though Governor Scott has previously expressed that he does not believe Vermont is ready for tax-and-regulate market, Young is hopeful that H.196 could be successful with the negotiation of certain terms.

"I signed the legalization of marijuana. So it's not as though I'm philosophically opposed," Gov. Scott said in an interview with The Campus in October, 2018.

"I just think we need to do this right and we have an opportunity and an obligation to do it right."

According to Scott, doing it right would require adequate education and prevention in schools as well as developing public safety infrastructure.

"I think [Gov. Scott] has laid out a clear plan for why he hasn't supported a tax-and-regulate market in the past," said Rep. Young. "He has been unwilling to support a bill without traffic safety and regulation so we'll have to negotiate with him to make sure those things are in the final bill."

Both recently introduced House and Senate measures have been met with some criticism based on similar criteria. Commissioner of Health Mark Levine testified before the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare regarding the Regulation of Cannabis in Vermont on Jan. 31, offering his perspective on S.54.

"As a physician and as a commissioner of the department charged with protecting and promoting the health of Vermonters, I have previously voiced my concerns about the use of marijuana and the potential increase in use as a result of a legalized and regulated market," Levine said. Citing lessons learned from other states' experience with the process, he made an example of the importance of establishing comprehensive prevention programming and funding in advance

"It is not only unacceptable but unconscionable to develop a legal marketplace for marijuana without establishing a dedicated revenue stream for education and prevention to protect public health and public safety," Levine said.

The VCRM holds, however, that S.54 is aimed at improving the public health and safety of the whole state and could, Subin testified on Jan. 30, provide "a framework that will enable the emerging cannabis industry to be shaped in ways that reflect Vermont values."

> ***"Why should we send all of our tax dollars out of state when we have real needs here?"***

Rep. Young believes that leaving the market in its current state presents risks to the public health and safety of Vermonters that should not be ignored.

"The way we legalized it [marijuana] last year was to have people grow up to two plants – besides going to Massachusetts [to buy it] – and then we just left the black market intact," he explained. "So, it's this kind of grey area and it's like no; we want the retailers of it [cannabis] to have a store whose products are tested and safe."

According to Seven Days VT, in late January, federal, state and local law enforcement officers busted a Burlington business that had been illegally selling weed at its Church Street storefront. This is the kind of "grey area" Rep. Young believes the current laws around the legalization of marijuana create.

"Taxing and regulating marijuana is important for consumer safety so that people aren't going out and buying product that has pesticides and mold," Young explained.

On another note, a bill such as S.54, Subin explained in her Jan. 30 testimony, can contribute to criminal justice reform and other social justice goals.

"It also offers an opportunity to continue to address what is, to me, personally, the most important priority: the racial, social, and economic injustices that have been perpetuated during the prohibition era," she said.

For the moment though, both H.196 and S.54 have some time in the House and the Senate respectively, before any final determinations are made.

Addison Central Teens Learn Boat Building

By BRIDGET COLLITON
Local Editor

MIDDLEBURY - For many Middlebury families, February break often serves as a time to spend time with loved ones or enjoy winter sports. Rather than heading to the Snow Bowl or Sugar Bush, however, some Middlebury area teens chose to spend their break working on something that won't become useful until the ice thaws: a sailboat. Since Feb. 18, the teens have been working in the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center as part of a boat building workshop run by the Middlebury Teen Center.

Ed McGuire, a volunteer from St. Stephen's Church and a veteran of the Vergennes maritime museum, spearheaded the project. McGuire is working with the teens to build sailboats out of two sheets

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Middlebury WinterFest Brings Together Community With A Flurry of Cold Weather Celebrations

By KAYLA LICHTMAN
Staff Writer

MIDDLEBURY - WinterFest, a four-day celebration of all things winter, came to the Middlebury community for the second year in a row this past week. The events, planned by the Better Middlebury Partnership (BMP), brought together Middlebury residents of all ages to enjoy the best of what the cold has to offer, from winter-themed arts and crafts to snow carving. The organization used to put on the much-enjoyed Chili Fest, but has decided to try something new in the past few years.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
A furry four-legged friend enjoys the crisp air and the celebratory Winterfest scene.

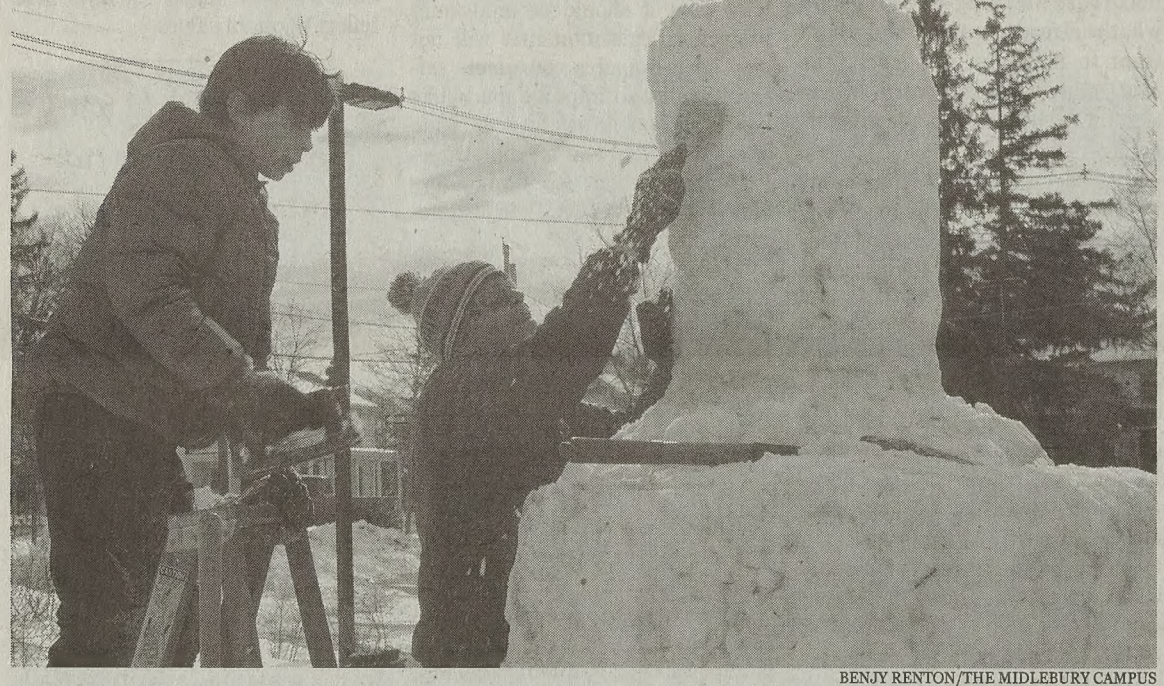
"We're just trying to get people to have a good time and be outside," said Chris Hammond, a member of the BMP. "The winters are so long here — take a break and enjoy the experience of living in Vermont!"

WinterFest kicked off on Friday evening, Feb. 15 with a Lantern Walk that began at Riverfront park. Participants staved off the cold with a warm bonfire and group songs before taking their homemade paper lanterns for a walk through town.

On Saturday morning, Middlebury's youngest residents enjoyed winter-themed storytelling by librarian Kathryn Laliberte at the Ilsley Public Library. Parents and children sat on pillows as they participated in an interactive reading of "Snowmen at Night," wondering what it is snowmen get up to when people aren't watching. (Spoiler: they drink ice cold cocoa and go ice skating). Afterwards, the kids created snow measuring sticks, which they decorated with yarn scarves, and calculated the amount of snow that had accumulated.

Laliberte said that her favorite part of WinterFest is the spirit it brings to the town. "I like that it gives the community a chance to come together and do something for low cost," she said.

Over the weekend, local residents and college students packed Kenyon Arena to see the ice skating show. Local skaters ages five to eighteen joined Middlebury students on the ice to skate along to Broadway's most famous hits. In the first act, young skaters in multicolored unicorn onesies swept across the ice to "Best Day Ever" from the SpongeBob Musical and leather-clad Middlebury College Figure Skating club members danced to "You're the One That I Want" from Grease. University of Vermont's synchronized skating team circled the rink, arms linked at the shoulders, to a medley of songs.



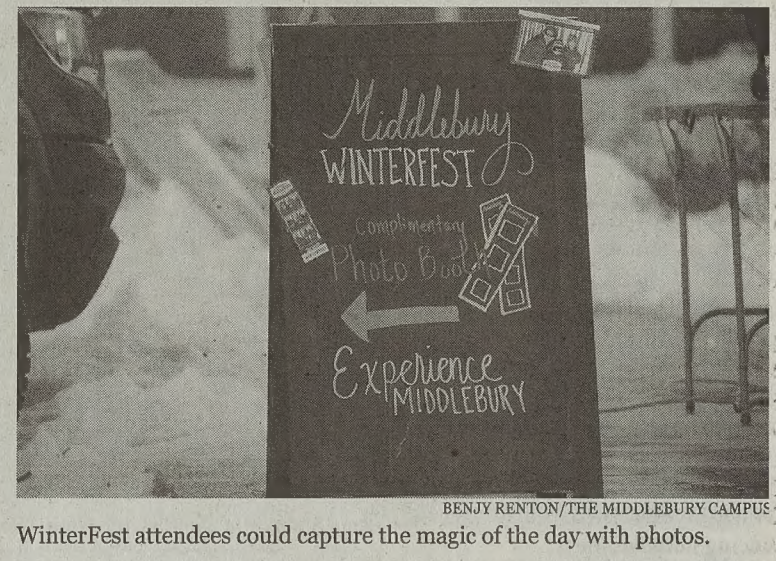
BENJY RENTON/THE MIDLEBURY CAMPUS
Geography professor Pete Nelson sculpts a snowy masterpiece.

Alongside the group skates were solo performances by seniors Yiyi Jin and Hannah Krutiansky, alum Lydia Waldo '18 and local ninth grader Emma Cooley. The special guests of the show were Katarina DelCamp and Maxwell Gart, a skating pair who recently placed tenth at the 2019 U.S. Junior National Championships.

In the audience on Saturday was Susan Veguez, who started the local skating program 45 years ago and for years sewed all the costumes, designed the choreography and selected the music for the show. Back then, the local skaters were performing on Middlebury's old ice rink, without a proper Zamboni. "We used to have to line up the kids with shovels and clean the ice off before we skated," Veguez said.

On Sunday, WinterFest continued with a snow carving competition at the College Park in town. Eight teams, competing for a prize of $250, chipped away at large blocks of snow with hammers, ice picks and saws. Team projects varied widely, with the Habitat for Humanity team replicating a house they're currently building on Seymour Street and Middlebury women's leadership club BOLD creating a car.

By one in the afternoon, the group from WomenSafe was halfway through creating a protest scene with dyed, multicolor snow-protesters holding signs. "It's a working together and building a just world protest" said Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, a Women's Safe employee. Across the park, the team from Carpenter & Costin chipped away at a block of snow over four feet tall destined to become a one-eyed minion from "Despicable Me," complete with its iconic blue uniform.

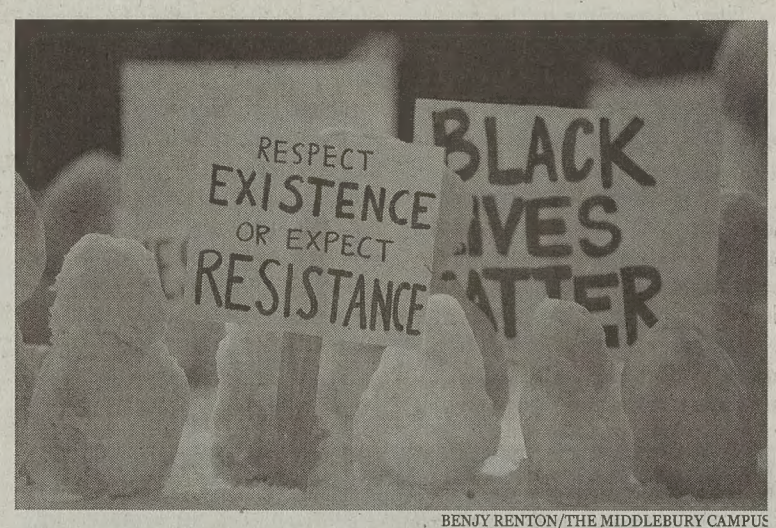


BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
WinterFest attendees could capture the magic of the day with photos.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Middlebury families walk with lanterns, lighting up the cold night.

Alongside the ice show and the snow carving this past weekend, the community also enjoyed free, winter-themed movies at the Marquis, including "Frozen" and "Happy Feet," and a brews and BBQ event held at Otter Creek Brewing.

WinterFest concluded on Monday, the first day of school break for students in town, with a free ice skating event at the Memorial Sports Center followed by an afternoon of sledding at the Parks and Rec gym.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Miniature activist snowpeople tout their causes.

Alternative February Break: Hannaford Career Center Hosts Boat Workshop, Teaches New Skills

Continued from Page 3

of plywood. In addition to providing a fun activity until school resumes, building the boats has allowed McGuire to teach them various life skills such as proper power tool usage and craftsmanship.

"[The project] allows the teens to develop new skills that they may not have had the chance to before," said Devon Karpak, the career center's Interim Program Manager, in an email to The Campus.

The workshop runs from 8 a.m. to noon, aligning with Middlebury Union High School's February break. The teens are provided with both breakfast and lunch before and after the program. Providing these two meals was an important part of the workshop, as the teen center serves many food-insecure teens.

"We don't collect a lot of data from our kids, but a lot of them tell us that they get dinner from the teen center," said Cicilia Robison, an Americorps member serving the teen center.

The boat building workshop aims to further the mission of the teen center; to provide a safe space for teens from all walks of life and of all identities. "We provide a safe, gently supervised place that's warm and has food. Our goal is to support our teens in whatever way they need," Robison elaborated.

The center aims to adhere to its message of unconditional positivity in every interaction with the kids it serves. "There are no bad people, only bad actions. If someone messes up, we talk to them about it, but the next day we'll act completely normal towards them," Robison said.

VAN BARTH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Addison Central Teens gather around their construction project.

Aidan Wertz '22 volunteers regularly with Addison Central Teens. A couple of days a week, Wertz goes to the teen center early to cook breakfast for the participants. "I love being with the kids, they're super fun to hang out with. It's fun to see the kids blossom," Wertz said.

At the time of publication, about three teens actively participated in the project. The success of the project in attracting participants reflects a greater interest in the teen center as a whole. "We average 15 to 20 kids a day. A year ago, it was six to seven kids a day. So the teen center has grown a lot, and is continuing to grow" Robison said.

In addition to the boat making project, the teen center provides more casual after school activities as well. Many of these activities take the form of affinity groups, like the center's LGBTQIA group. The boat building workshop is part of a larger project to increase the number of skills-based activities offered by the center.

The success of the workshop has created optimism about the future of more hands-on projects in future. "We will actually be offering another opportunity like this to turn the boat from a hull into a full blown sailboat over April Break," Karpak said in an email.

More information about Addison Central Teens can be found at https://www.middteens.org.

Homelessness in VT

Continued from Page 3

homeless, you feel disenfranchised. You don't feel part of the community," Sinclair said.

Some of the challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness can derive from judgment or misunderstanding of their circumstances. "People think that 'homeless people' are somehow to blame for their misfortune, and so they don't 'deserve' to be helped," Butterfield noted. In Kellerman's words: "It's not what's wrong with them, it's what's happened to them."

Demers emphasized the importance of compassion and considering people as individuals. "No matter if you are at Middlebury College, walking around the campus, there are people on your grounds who are in circumstances where there is trauma and great difficulty. Being open to knowing who those people are and what their needs are is essential," Demers said.

To contact or donate to Charter House Coalition: www.charterhousecoalition.org

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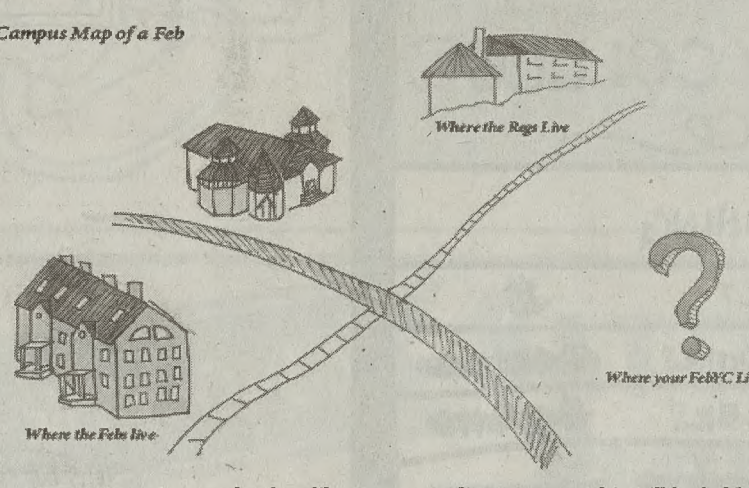
Welcome Febs

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

One hundred and seven first-year students arrived on campus Feb. 6 to begin their orientation. These new students, commonly called Febs, are part of a tradition which began at Middlebury College nearly fifty years ago. Febs bring unique perspectives and talents to the Middlebury community: We are excited to meet all 107 new students and we'd like extend a warm welcome to the Class of 2022.5.

The first couple months of college can be difficult. It can be hard to adjust to a new place filled with new people, challenging courses and the stressors of living apart from family. This can be even harder when you arrive on campus and there are other first-years who have been here for five months already and seem to have things figured out.



Campus Map of a Feb

As the spring semester begins, we are reminded of the barriers that often prevent Febs and September admits, sometimes called Regs, from getting to know each other. For the most part, these issues are institutional, having to do with housing and the Feb Orientation process.

Febs are sometimes placed on first-year halls with other students, but many are sprinkled throughout the campus in buildings like Starr Hall. We recognize that the Feb program exists in part to fill the rooms left empty by students going abroad, so awkward housing assignments may sometimes be inevitable. But we think better programming can help ameliorate some issues and encourage students living near each other to interact more.

We also realize that approaching students from other years can be intimidating for new Febs. Since each Feb class is small and goes through an intensive orientation process, many know almost everyone in their Feb class — but almost nobody outside of it.

Several initiatives have tried to improve integration between the classes, but they have produced middling results, in part because students are not given enough guidance. For example, the Feb-Reg "buddy" program has led to awkward experiences for Febs when their "buddies" try to include them in large group activities without taking the time to get to know them on an individual basis first.

Members of our board have observed that new Febs and first-year students don't seem to mingle at events that are specifically intended to give them opportunities to get to know each other, like Commons dinners.

Part of the problem with initiatives and events like these is that they do not feature activities that push people out of their comfort zones. Of course, events should be appealing enough to attract attendees, but as they exist now, the students who participate are not given a real chance to make new friends. It would be better if events had more carefully delineated activities that made it difficult for students to keep to their pre-established friend groups. For example, orientation leaders could facilitate a Midd Uncensored event — the popular discussion-based program that takes place at September and February orientations — between first-years and first-year Febs.

These events could also be better publicized. Most students find social activities on Facebook, so each Commons should use that platform to promote events.

Students who arrive at Middlebury in the Fall can fear seeming arrogant to the Febs who arrive just one semester later, so they may be hesitant to offer advice, but this community is one where most people want to be helpful and kind. So ask for help if you need it.

We also encourage all students to invite potential friends, hall mates or classmates to grab a meal. The dining halls are some of the most social spaces on this campus.

Another opportunity for friendship-building that could come from students themselves are joint events between FYCs and FebYCs. FYCs from different Commons sometimes combine events to give first-years the chance to get to know each other, and the same thing could easily be applied to first-year Febs and first-years.

And the single most important piece of advice that we can offer this year's new Febs is to join clubs and participate in other extracurricular activities. The student activities fair will be held this Friday, and it is a great way for Febs to get to know fellow students in every year who share common interests and passions.

Middlebury needs more, better institutional support for social integration between Febs and non-Febs, especially those in their first year. With the college having just proposed changes to the residential life system, we look forward to seeing how community-building opportunities will expand in the future.

The adjustment period after arriving college is just that — a period — and will pass with time. Febs, you too will soon begin to find your groove, your people and your interests. Your path to graduation may not be the same as most students on campus, but with some effort — and, we hope, added support from the college community — it will still be a good one.

Graphic by Jill Stauffer '19.

What I Have Learned At Middlebury College

By JOEL MACHADO

Editor's Note: This speech was performed live for the Cook Commons Spencer Prize Championship on Jan. 27, 2019.

I wish I loved myself as much as the institution of Middlebury College loves itself because then I would also provide a monetary incentive for people to talk about all the wonderful things I have taught them.

Don't get me wrong, I really enjoy attending Middlebury, and I am fortunate to be here, but so far as a first-year student with just one full term under my belt, I have learned some rather unsettling things about this college that I would like to take the opportunity to highlight.

I have learned that Middlebury, much like other schools, is an institution of higher learning second and a business first. The role of the Board of Trustees as the gatekeeper to our education is one of financial gain, not educational. If the priority was for us as students to truly prosper, then the colossal endowment that this school possesses would be used to better accommodate the student body instead of sitting in dirty stock and moved around by dirtier hands.

If the forces that be at the top of this college were not incentivized by personal profits, it would mean students with financial aid problems would actually have their needs met and not be rung dry for every last penny, and then pressured to write thank you letters to individuals who they will never meet but are indebted to just because they are less-privileged. Likewise, Laurie Patton would take a pay cut from her nearly $600,000 salary before imposing one on professors if the school's budget was genuinely struggling. And lastly, the excuse that living in an old, run-down dormitory is a rite of passage would not be used to cover up the asbestos-ridden walls of Battell, because it is not a valid reason not to improve standards of living for students who pay some of the highest fees in the nation.

I have learned that Middlebury is the only place that can get away with tackling the issues of protesting students by banning protests altogether. Middlebury College, as far as my knowledge goes, has excelled at performing the bare minimum in order to counter major societal problems. One example is rape culture, which not only has an infamous connotation with one of the dorm facilities on campus but also has seen nothing done to counter changes to Title IX rules which now offer protections to perpetrators and make it harder for victims to speak out. Another example is race relations, which has left students of various non-white backgrounds not feeling accepted in various spaces on campus, both academic and not, without many opportunities to talk about finding a solution.

Despite these negative things, I wanted to take one of the few opportunities that students have left to speak out on this campus to say that I have not learned much yet, but I hope that I can contribute to conversations and discourse that actually improve this campus and actually teach us something constructive for the future of our student body.

Joel Machado is a member of the Middlebury Class of 2022

Sex Panther: On "Queer"

By SEX PANTHER

Editor's Note: Throughout the semester you'll be reading articles from Middlebury students of different identities and experiences on all things sex and relationships. If you have a topic you'd like to see written about or you'd like to write, visit go/sexpanther to get in touch with us.

Sex Panther here — and just so you know, I'm queer. And it sometimes throws people off when they hear me describe myself that way, especially people who aren't in the community. "Can't you just say gay?" "Isn't queer a derogatory term?" "Are you reclaiming that or do you just want to be edgy?"

The term 'queer' does have a varied and often convoluted history, and yes, historically, it has been used as a slur. However, it is also an academic area of study, a verb and an adjective. There is a lot to get used to, and to be honest, I myself am constantly learning and unlearning new things about how we as non-straight people exist and are perceived in society. It's a process. There's a lot to unpack, but consider this a crash course on queerness. So buckle up, sweeties!

To start off, I'm going to give some background (skip this if you're lazy or like, a GSFS person): the academic disciplines of Queer Studies and Queer Critique are heavily influenced by the works of two very famous theorists, Michel Foucault and Judith Butler. Here's a run-down just to give some context to the often-overwhelming world of gender, sexuality, and feminist studies and to show how these words have moved outside the lecture hall and become more commonly used terms. Many consider Foucault to be a poststructuralist theorist; he focuses on the way that discussions around things like power and sexuality have been formed more than the content of the discussions themselves. In a queer studies context, Foucault argues that the body is "the site in which discourses are enacted and where they are contested." That means that identities are often simplified or essentialized and projected onto different people's bodies and that the presentation (or the ways in which a person manipulates the expected presentation) allows the person to challenge or accept that identity within the larger context of society, like putting on different outfits to fit into different scenarios.

Judith Butler also talks about the "performativity" of gender and the ways in which a "body becomes its gender through a series of acts which are renewed, revised and consolidated through time," in her 1988 essay titled Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory. This means that the things our contemporary society associates with being a woman or a man (the clothes we wear, the way we cut our hair, the jobs we do, the pitch of our voices, the way we react to social situations) are all things which are not innate, but rather are created and mandated by the society in which we live. Basically, gender (and attraction to gender, which we call sexuality) are things that we as a society generally create and agree upon, but don't necessarily consider to be made up. It's a whole lot of self-delusion, really.

We're going to springboard from this revelation into the way that, as part of the male-female gender binary that society creates (and which most bodies perform), heterosexuality (ya know, straightness) is also part and parcel of this dichotomy. Butler says that "there are strict punishments for contesting the script by performing out of turn." I know. What does that even mean?!? "Out of turn" can mean anything which challenges what mainstream culture perceives as norms of gender or sexuality: people who aren't straight, girls who shave their heads or dress like men, or people who don't even fit into the categories of male or female.

This is where the word queer comes in. It is for people, and places, and things that are, simply put, contrary to "the norm" in a radical way. In academic circles (i.e. places like Midd's classrooms where people throw around words like praxis, epistemological, and cis-heteropatriarchy like they're self-explanatory things), one definition of queer includes any presentation, identity, or performance which actively challenges the norm of heterosexuality and binary genders. This is where Foucault comes back in. Sara Mills gives a super easy-to-follow summary of some of Foucault's theories on sexuality. For example, she simplifies how Foucault suggests "counter-identification" or "counter-discourses" as ways to find empowerment in "stigmatized individualities," which is just a fancy way of saying that people can use the ways in which society shuns them to find community and empowerment; it's why some lesbians call themselves dykes, and why some people (gay, lesbian, bi, and everywhere in between) call themselves queer.

The very act of claiming the term queer is actively subverting and challenging the ways dominant social powers shape the way people can identify and what counts as socially acceptable. In this sense, queer is an active word, and it is possible in identifying as queer some people are pointing to and embodying the ways in which their performance of identity and actions dispute normative expectations of gender, sexuality and sex. Make sense?

Continued on Page 6

NOTES FROM THE DESK

Why the Fork Are People Throwing Dishes in the Trash?

By SARAH ASCH

As I reported the story on Page 1 about students throwing dining hall dishes in the trash, I was faced with a question that often arises in journalism: Can I speak out about this issue? Is it ethical for me to publicly state an opinion on the subject of a news article that I wrote? Often the answer is no, it is not ethical for a journalist to write both a news story and an opinion piece on the same subject. Our job almost always requires us to leave the public opinions to those without bylines.

The exception comes when a story speaks to an objective truth. When a fact is universally understood as true, it does not reveal personal bias to state it, even if it relates to the subject being reported. Such is the case, I believe, with this story regarding unreturned dining hall dishes. I would like to state unequivocally that it is wrong to take dishes from our shared dining halls and abandon them around campus for staff members to collect, especially when it is not their job to do so. It is entitled, selfish and wasteful to throw away ceramic plates and mugs into the garbage because you are unwilling to carry them back to the dining hall when you return for your next meal.

The first reason why this is wrong is quite obvious: trash is gross. It is full of biohazards like blood and vomit, not to mention rotten foods, infected snotty tissues and any number of other unpleasant things that I think we can all agree we would rather not have touching the dishes we eat off of, no matter how many chemical rinses they may go through before we see them again.

Far more importantly, however, throwing dishes away — or leaving them out to be carted off to the recycling center — is enormously disrespectful of both staff and your fellow students.

In our Staff Issue last month, The Campus wrote about the difficulties our staff face in their jobs, not least of which have to do with arrogant students who do not show them common decency. Filling residential buildings and garbage cans with dirty dishes is just one example of this disrespect.

When you leave a dish out, somebody has to deal with it, whether that be staff or another student. If you throw it in the trash, somebody has to pull it out again. If you take a dish from the dining hall, you are responsible for getting it back. Period. Otherwise, somebody else has to do extra labor, and this is unacceptable. You cannot move through the world expecting other people to clean up your messes for you. And even if you have enough money that you can, you shouldn't. That is a crappy way to treat other people.

As students, we lead charmed lives in many ways. Staff members shovel our walkways and take out our garbage. We are not expected to clean toilets or even wash our own dishes. The least you can do is bring your plates back so that those who are responsible for washing them can do so without having to chemically remove mold and garbage from them.

In addition to the obvious solution to this problem—just bring your dishes back to the dining hall, for the love of god—I would also like to posit another, secondary solution. The SGA just introduced a new program that would allow students to dine with a randomly-selected staff member at lunch or dinner on Thursdays (you can sign up at go/FSSTS). I would highly encourage students to participate in this program, and to get to know any staff members you regularly interact with in whatever way you can.

Stop and chat with the custodian who cleans your hall (if you can do so in a way that doesn't disrupt their work). Get to know them and their story. Ask after the well-being of the dining hall staff member who checks you in at the swipe counter. This may come as a shocker but staff are people — wonderfully funny and delightfully kind people. Getting to know them will not only improve your Middlebury experience, but may also help remind those who are inclined to throw their dishes in the trash that the person at the other end of that decision is a person, too. And that person, I would venture to guess, does not want to pull your plate out of a trash bag full of god knows what.

Reporting this story made me really angry. I was angry that students at this school think it is okay to make extra work for our staff because they are too lazy to bring their dishes back. And I was angry that it didn't surprise me to learn that there are people on this campus that would throw away ceramic plates rather than return them. My hope is that, at the very least, this story will shed light on this issue, and that people will come to their senses and start returning their dishes to dining services. As students, it is our responsibility to behave better than this.

Sarah Asch is an Editor at Large and member of the Middlebury Class of 2019.5.

Choose Your Own Identifiers

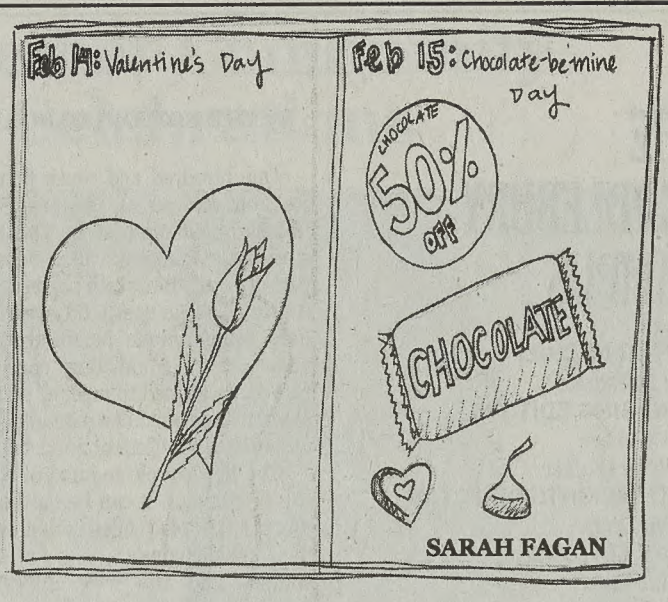
Continued from Page 5

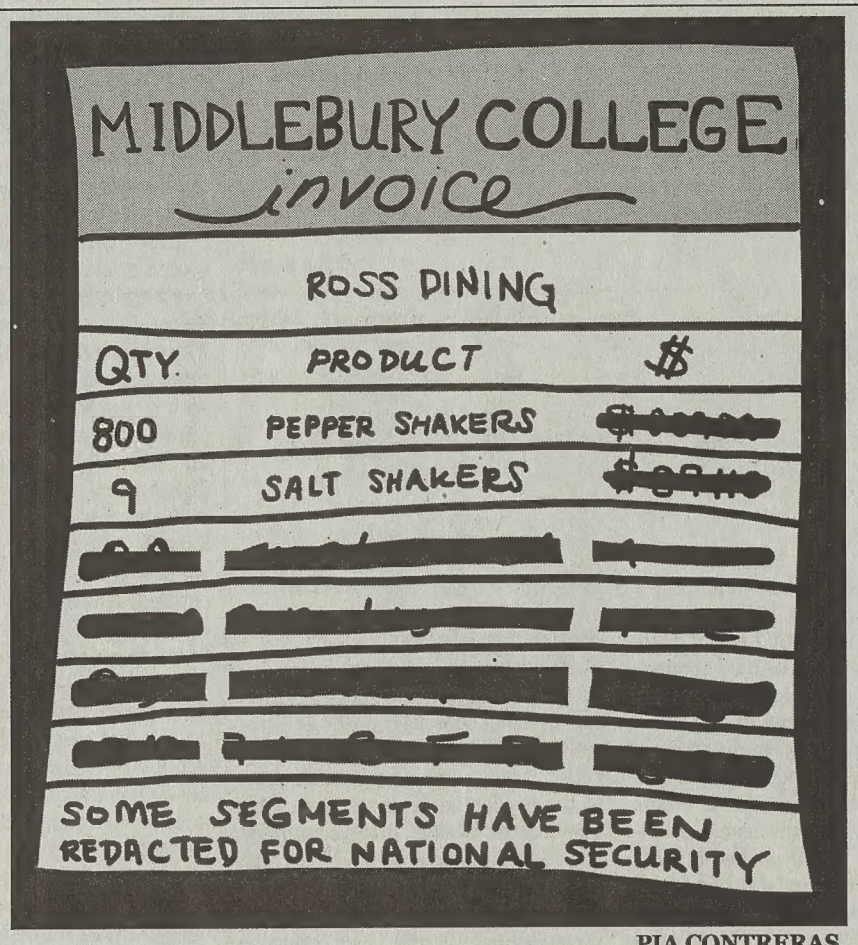
So, if queer is that which is "out of turn" with "normal" performances of gender and sexuality, and by some definitions even any identity or performance that is not straight, cisgendered, white, abled or upper-middle class (which, let's be real, is the demographic which has historically held the more power and social capital than any other). That means a lot of people could fall into the category of queer, but not everyone that might fall into that category feels comfortable claiming that word. And that's totally fine; the use of words like queer, gay, bi, lesbian etc. are all depended on how the person using them (or not using them) chooses to interact with those identifiers.

TL;DR, if you don't vibe with the word queer because of the culturally loaded connotations it has for you, then it is your prerogative to not use that as an identifier! If queer isn't a word that you use to describe you, your friends shouldn't use it to describe you either! But it is important to know how and why the term came to be something that many people are proud to claim, as well.

I always love to hear from you lovelies, so if you have a question or burning comment, head over to go/sexpanther and hmu, baby!

Xoxo, Sex Panther





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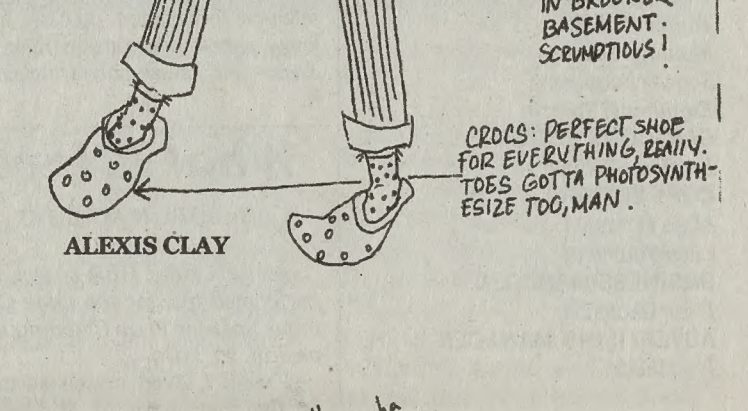
MAJORING IN GEOLOGRAPHY.
UPSIDE DOWN PROCTOR BOWL.
YELLS OUT "SEND IT!" TO DESCRIBE ACHIEVING BASIC ACTIVITIES LIKE WIPING OWN ASS.
WATER COLLECTED FROM THE PUDDLE IN-FRONT OF BI-HALL. UNPURIFIED! DUH.
PANTS COATED WITH MYSTERIOUS WHITE POWDER OF COCAINE, CUMBING CHAIR AND NUTRITIONAL YEAST.
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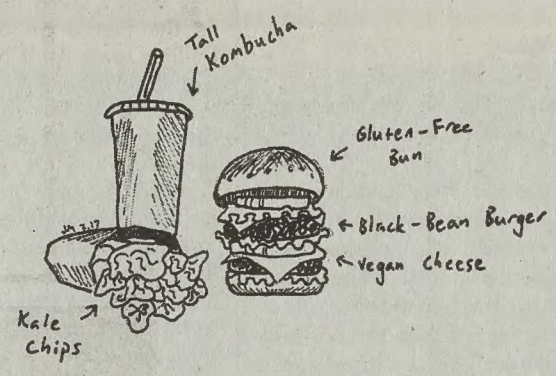
KAITLYND COLLINS



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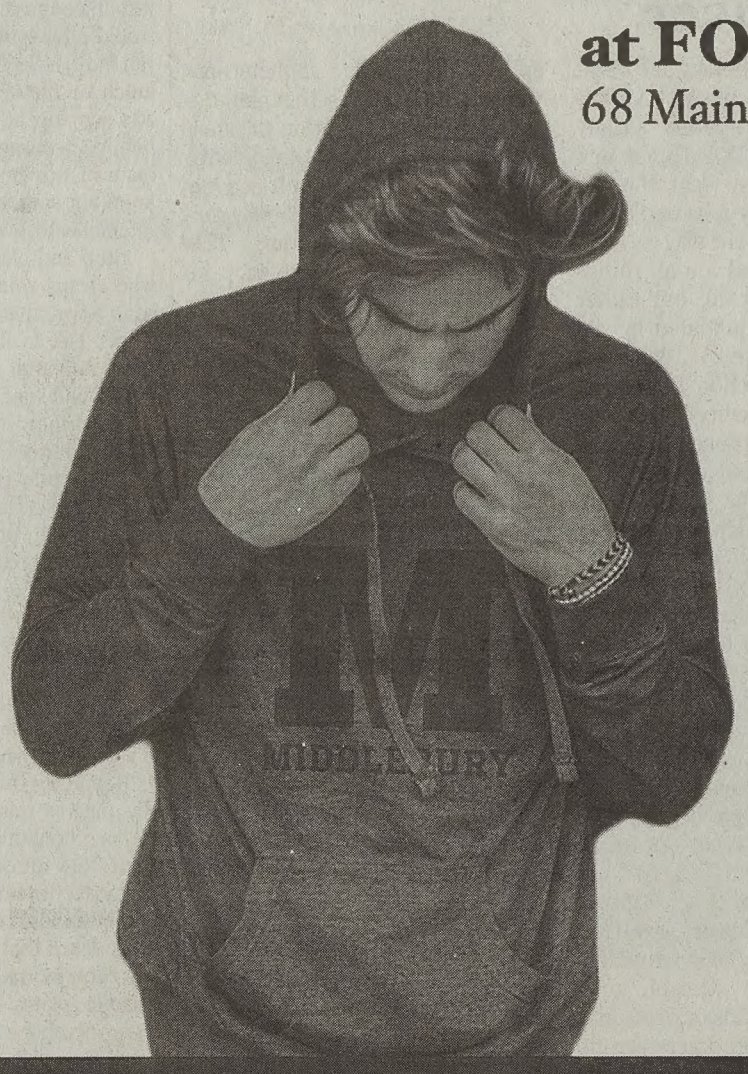

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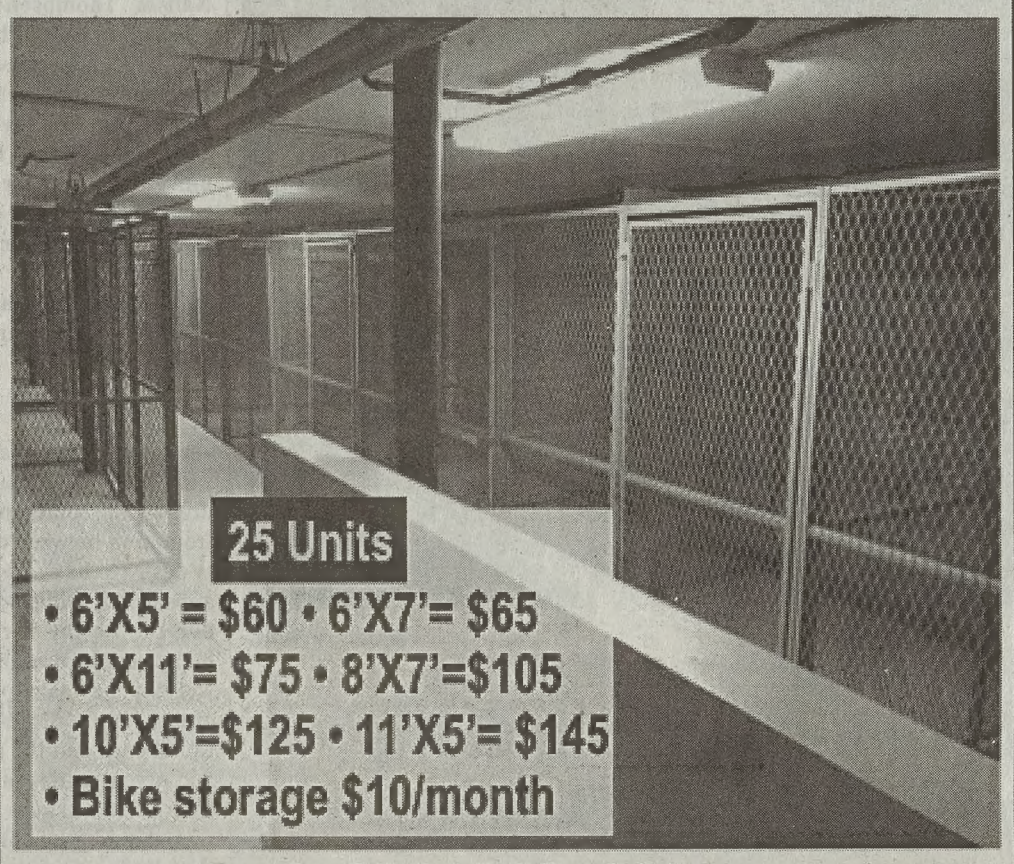

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Reel Critic: 'Cold War'

By RILEY BOARD
Arts & Academics Editor

Allow me to begin talking about "Cold War", a 2018 Polish film shown as part of the Hirschfield International Film Series, by addressing its final sentiment: "Let's go to the other side, the view will be better over there."

For the film's brief hour and 28 minutes, the two leads, one a pianist and composer and the other a singer with a dark past, try over and over again, heartbreakingly, to find something better in the next chapter of their lives and just nearly fail each time. However, it's this perpetual discontentment and continuous heartache that keeps audiences torturously invested and part of what has made "Cold War" a very promising contender for three Oscars.

Beginning in 1950s Soviet Poland and continuing over 20 years and four countries, director Pawel Pawlikowski's black and white masterpiece begins with Wiktor (Tomasz Kot) and his collegue Irena (Agata Kulesza) traveling the Polish countryside, recording the music of rural communities. They use these recordings as the foundation for a performance troupe comprised of singer and dancers from the same rural communities. One of the girls to audition, Zula (Joanna Kulig), catches Wiktor's eye, and she makes it into the group even after a good-but-not-great performance and the realization to Wiktor that she murdered her father and is on probation.

Over the next few years, Wiktor and Zula fall in love against the backdrop of the group's international success, although their relationship is haunted by the prying eyes of Kaczmarek (Borys Szyc), the Soviet emissary tasked with observing the project and to whom Zula reports private information about Wiktor. The troupe travels to Paris for a performance and the lovers make a plan to defect to France permanently, but Wiktor is left alone in an alleyway while Zula returns to Poland.

For decades, the pair interacts fleetingly: one night in Paris, a few moments of eye contact in Yugoslavia, a conversation in a heavily-guarded checkpoint at the Polish border. Their lives undergo drastic changes — relationships, marriages, imprisonment, careers, children — but the audience only sees this broad span of time through their moments together and through, as the film eventually notes, the search for a better 'view' just slightly ahead.

The strength of the film is certainly, as myself and The Academy's nominations both noted, in its cinematography. Pawlikowski's directing makes creative and haunting use of empty space and empty scenes that make the rather short film not feel remotely crowded. He also makes stunning use of mirrors, in shots that had audience members faintly gasping. The black and white had both a haunting quality, which was not out of place in the film, but also gave it a simplicity that allowed the expressions of its actors and subtleties of emotion take the forefront in the necessary scenes.

For all that I enjoyed of the film, I was not initially convinced. The initial depictions of Zula and Wiktor's relationship felt fragmented and deceiving. For the first 30 minutes of the film, we see what feels like an unimportant part of their relationship, and although the film certainly leans away from being predominantly romantic, it perhaps leans too far — so far that it was difficult to care or appreciate the future significance of Wiktor and Zula's time-and-boundary-crossing romance.

However, the middle of the films offers a handle on their relationship, and it becomes hard to look away as the ill-fated lovers struggle and find comfort within the most stunning cinematographic shots of 2018.

COURTESY PHOTO

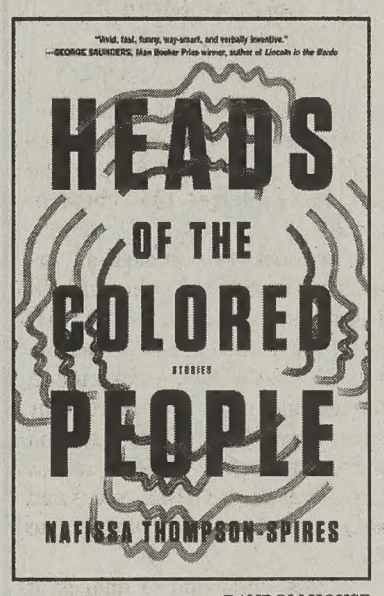
Composer Wiktor and singer Zula are the tragic lovers in Pawel Pawlikowski's film "Cold War."

The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senior Columnist

Literatures & Cultures Librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic Department, the Comparative Literature Program, the Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS) Program, the Language Schools, the Linguistics Program and the Department of Luso-Hispanic Studies.

'Heads of the Colored People' by Nafissa Thompson-Spires, 2018



RANDOM HOUSE

If I am honest with you, the author of this work is everything I've ever wanted to be: a smart, paid and recognized writer who addresses issues of race in her writing without being beholden to them (and who has a solid plan B for a career, just in case). In this debut collection of short stories, Nafissa Thompson-Spires draws a broad swath of characters, who also happen to be people of color, who encounter a variety of challenges. There's the woman who lives for likes on Facebook; the university professor who struggles to assert authority over a shared office space; a woman who has a romantic fetish for amputees; an anime-based cosplayer at a convention; and feuding mothers who attack each others' children with ongoing epistolary insults. The literary plain is so rich! And the verisimilitude so plausible! In one work alone, Thompson-Spires addresses the sometimes brutal confrontation between the 21st century desire to be well adjusted and to appear well-adjusted on social media; the weight of code-switching many people of color encounter as we/they navigate personal/social circles and professional/educational ones and the general quirks and eccentricities of a people that is as diverse as any other.

I should probably call the author by her first name, "Nafissa," as we've met and occasionally chat on social media. Nafissa and I coincided at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was shy and (lovingly) awkward in person, her social skill failing to convey what would come next as the United States' "ideal" protagonists of "success" are often effusively extroverted and take up a good deal of space.

At that time, I didn't know I was in the company of genius. I also didn't know that "Nafissa" was also "Dr. Thompson-Spires," that the book she released would be chosen for Oprah's Best Books of 2018 or that she would be interviewed regarding her writing on Late Night with Seth Meyers. Since the time we met at a bus stop on Wright Street a handful of years ago, Nafissa has publicly launched a writing career with a strong foundation.

Part of what's special about her writing is that it both casually and aggressively eschews the use of caricatures and stock characters. Twentieth century consumers of media have certainly encountered enough of those when it comes to representations of African Americans. See "magical Negro," "mammy," "Sambo," et al. There's an entire Wikipedia page dedicated to the topic: "Stereotypes of African Americans." She takes characters who are "queer" (in the retro, retro sense of the word) and demonstrates that they, too, exist within communities of color and also experience the crises of identity that have been regularly afforded to the dominant culture. She diversifies diversity, an effort creators and people of color have long wanted to see forwarded.

I listened to this work as an audiobook on go/overdrive/ as, at this point in my life, moments of multitasking allow me to get slightly more done this way. I move through texts faster, but I imagine I retain less. I recommend this work to people with seemingly conflicting identities holed up in one body. For example, if you're both a ballerina and a boxer or a fitness guru and a junk food fiend. Thompson-Spires' works explore the less visible personalities that exist among the extremes. For more titles like this one, see Carmen Maria Machado's "Her Body and Other Parties" (which I have yet to read), "The Ways of White Folks" by Langston Hughes or "The Complete Short Stories" by Zora Neale Hurston.

Poet and Painter: Connections Between Chopin and Debussy

By JOHN VAALER
Contributing Writer

COURTESY PHOTO

Affiliate Artist Natasha Koval Paden prompts reflection with her performance.

The Polish composer Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849) once glumly wrote to a friend, "It is dreadful when something weighs on your mind, not to have a soul to unburden yourself to. You know what I mean. I tell my piano the things I used to tell you." Such emotional power was put on full display on Sunday, Feb. 17, when Natasha Koval Paden, an Affiliate Artist with the Music Department of Middlebury College, hosted a piano recital in Robinson Hall at the Mahaney Arts Center. The free concert, "Connections: A Musical Journey With Debussy and Chopin," had an audience of about 60 attendees, including locals and college students.

The concert was comprised of two halves, one for each of the eponymous composers. The half devoted to the music of Frédéric Chopin was spectacularly Romantic with rich melodies and unbridled zeal. Paden then swept the audience into a forty-minute daydream with the concert's enchanting Debussy portion.

"My favorite pieces were spread throughout," Jonah Edelman '20.5 said. "(The music) made me want to let my mind wonder and imagine something different than the typical monotony of Sunday studying."

Assistant Professor of History Rebecca Mitchell, whose research explores musical metaphysics, illuminated the connections between the two composers.

"Many of the musical textures that Debussy explores develop out of Chopin's compositional style," Mitchell said. "Chopin was a master of piano composition and helped to develop the full range of its expressive possibilities, something that Debussy continues to explore in his preludes for piano."

Paden began the Chopin segment with the Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 23. Composed in 1831, Ballade No. 1 is often considered a masterpiece, rivaled perhaps only by Chopin's Ballade No. 4 in F Minor.

Ballade No. 1 in G Minor is not for the timid. Paden delicately controlled the Ballade, accentuating the gloomy countermelodies in the opening "heartbeat" sections. Her controlled pace allowed the music to breathe.

In the viruostic last sections of the Ballade, however, Paden shined with pyrotechnic glee. Her fingers zinged across the keyboard and lashed out the final, jaw-droppingly tricky coda of the piece. There are videos on Youtube of even Vladimir Horowitz, one of the greatest pianists of all time, struggling a little with the Ballade's final bars. Paden held her own and conquered this pianistic Mount Kilimanjaro.

Paden next played Chopin's Fantaisie-Impromptu in C sharp minor, Op. 66. The pianist played the composition's first and last sections with gusto, using soft dynamics to highlight the tenderness of the song's middle.

Fantasie-Impromptu is a dark and rebellious piece. Mitchell commented on the revolutionary aura of Chopin's music: "Chopin left Warsaw just before the November Uprising of 1830 in which Polish nationalists tried to regain independence from the Russian Tsar. He never returned to Poland, but remained close to other Polish emigres. He glorified Polish nationalism in his compositions for piano."

"I think that you could add that Chopin is God's poet and Debussy is God's painter."

- Rebecca Mitchell
Assistant Professor of History

The crowd heard Chopin's exiled loneliness at the end of the concert's first half; the final chords died softly.

The music of Claude Debussy (1862-1918) is an enigma of otherworldly grace and polish. Paden expressed the strangeness of Debussy through subtle dynamic shifts and delicate color choices. She first played three preludes: "Bruyéres" ("Heather"), "Ondine" ("Mermaid") and "Feux d'Artifice" ("Fireworks").

"Heather" offered a calm look at the titular flowers. Paden demonstrated a careful pith in coloring the musical landscape, offering fresh purples and exciting blues through each chord she played.

If the first prelude was a pleasant detour into the French countryside, "Mermaid" was a splashy thrill-ride through Les Champs-Élysées. Paden nailed the work, cranking out Art Tatum-esque glescendos that rollicked up and down the Steinway D-274 in Robison Hall.

The 2.74 meters-wide instrument is worth noting. The massive Steinway's unrivaled power worked perfectly with these preludes: a listener first heard a Debussy arpeggio then its pedaled echoes, then a mixing lilt from the piano's soundboard that floated through the hall like a ghost.

The audience began to see why Debussy is often called an Impressionist in the vein of Monet. Paden melted and changed the sonic landscapes of these preludes, questioning the very form of classical music itself. The last prelude, "Fireworks," if not a literal showstopper, certainly earned its explosive title. The pianist highlighted Debussy's influence of Japonisme through her speedy rendering of the pentatonic scale in the her final prelude.

Paden finished the evening with Debussy's "L'isle joyeuse" ("The Isle of Joy"). Debussy might have found this piece joyful, but it is first and foremost spectacularly weird. Abrupt shifts of time and tone abound. The sensation of listening to the piece is like reading Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness:" mysterious and draining, but often fun. "The Isle of Joy" ended with Paden crashing a tsunami of chords onto the archipelagos of the piece's beginning, rejecting any sense of structure that the Chopin half tried to make.

On the performance as a whole, Paden's interpretation of Debussy and Chopin highlighted the two composers' similarities in color and technique, but also their stark differences — Chopin's restlessness, Debussy's obliqueness. A proverb of classical music goes, "Bach is God's word; Mozart, God's laughter; Beethoven, God's fire."

Mitchell expanded this analogy: "I think that you could add that Chopin is God's poet and Debussy is God's painter."

DON'T MISS THIS

Common Ground: Justice, Diversity and Inclusivity in the Environment
This symposium aims to stress the need for more inclusive approaches to environmental activism, and to address the pervasive forms of marginalization in conversations related to the environment.
Friday 3/1 and Saturday 3/2, check go/ej/ for times and locations.

Christian Sands Trio
Five-time Grammy Award nominee and Steinway artist Christian Sands is an emerging jazz force to be reckoned with. His abundant piano technique perfectly matches his conception, accomplishing a much deeper musical goal: a fresh look at the entire language of jazz.
Friday 2/22, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall

Hirschfield International Film Series: The 20th Annual Animation Show of Shows
The 20th Annual Animation Show of Shows presents 15 thought-provoking, poignant, and very funny animated shorts from around the world. (98 minutes).
Saturday 2/23, 3 p.m. & 8 p.m., Dana Auditorium

J-Term Class Untangles History of Police Power

By ELSA KORPI
Contributing Writer

Let's do some word association.

The task is simple: I say "police" and you respond with the first three images that come to mind.

For most, this evokes an archetypal uniformed police officer. But depending on who we are and what experiences our community has had with law enforcement, the details of that picture may vary. Some think of strength and protection, while others' minds jump to guns, to yelling voices and shaky videos of police violence on Twitter.

In this whirlwind of images, it is worth questioning why our idea of policing has become almost synonymous with the use of force. This and a plethora of other questions were addressed in "Policing the Globe: The Historical Origins of Contemporary Police Power," a Winter Term class offered by the Department of History and taught by Visiting Professor Amit Prakash. Prakash, a self-described Europeanist, specializes in the history of the police in the French colonial world. The college's Winter Term format provided a unique opportunity to teach a course he had had in mind for a long time.

The course centers around the finding that the civilian police is becoming increasingly intertwined with the military. In practice this means that we see more and more force being used in the everyday operations of law enforcement. Since 1997, the Pentagon's 1033 Program has distributed used military equipment to civilian police forces, giving officers access to gear that they often have not even requested. According to the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO), 8,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States currently use equipment obtained through the program. Examples can be found as close as Keene, N.H., where a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle (MRAP), roams the streets of the quiet town.

Untangling the implications of this could fill up four weeks by itself, yet Prakash took his class a step further by approaching police militarization from a postcolonial angle.

Policing is indistinguishable from governance, which in turn is informed by historical events. Counterinsurgency techniques as we know them today are rooted in the world of European imperialism when policing was used to maintain constant social control in the colonies, and the police acted as an iron fist to stifle challenges to the regime.

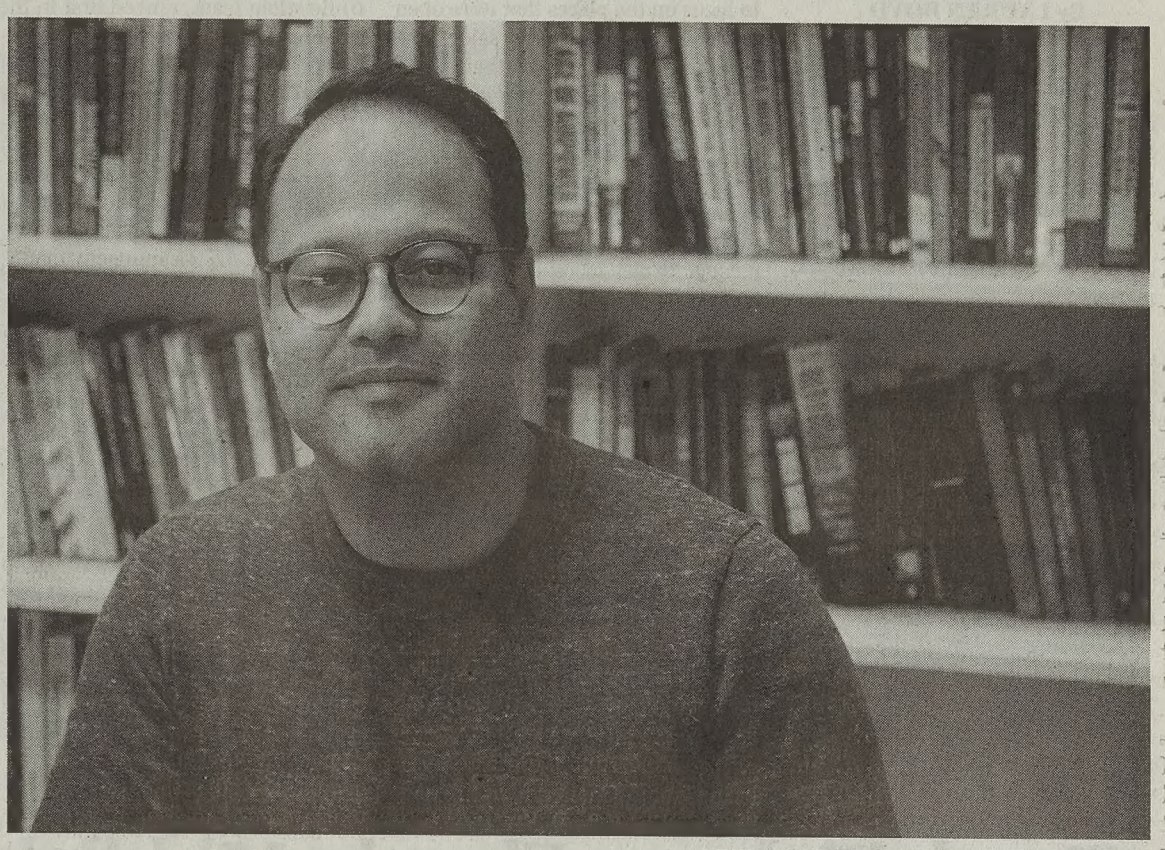
"I think one of the contributions of postcolonial studies is to show that the shadows of empire are long. Colonial techniques survive colonialism and escape these temporal borders; just because they use the word 'post' doesn't mean colonialism is over," Prakash said. "As we know, culture tends to be sticky."

Today, globalization further complicates the spread of these practices. Like physical equipment, military techniques used in Afghanistan can now easily be brought "back home" and become part of the repertoire of civilian police forces around the country.

"Since 1997, the Pentagon's 1033 Program has distributed used military equipment to civilian police forces, giving officers access to gear that they often have not even requested."

Although this may feel distant, Prakash linked the issue to our personal lives. "The police are often our most direct contact with the physical manifestation of state power," he said. "(They) become the real interface between the governors and the governed."

Consistent with the systemic inequality that colonialism left behind, how these encounters with the police play out can differ vastly between different ethnic groups.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN /THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Visiting Professor Amit Prakash taught the Winter Term course "Policing the Globe."

In class, Prakash emphasized the spontaneous nature of these interactions: "The police get to — in the moment — decide which laws to enforce and which (to) not ... on certain populations. (They) aren't necessarily going to be raiding Middlebury College because of underage drinking or marijuana, but they might well be raiding a street corner in the Bronx for the exact same practice by same age people. But they're of a different color and social condition."

As an alternative to a traditional research paper, Prakash gave his students the option to explore a topic of their liking in the form of a podcast, a website or a documentary film.

Students took advantage of this creative freedom. The projects, which were discussed in class, approached the content from a variety of angles and included interviews with the Addison County Sheriff and a minority police officer in Los Angeles. Some went as far as writing their own music for their podcast.

Grace Vedock '20 was initially drawn to the course because of its connection to contemporary issues like police brutality and decided to explore the issue of masculinity in policing as her final project. If her podcast episode is any indication, then gender cannot be exempted from discussion of police militarization. Through interviews with Laurie Essig of the Department of Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies and sociologist Michael Kimmel, she came to see social ideas of gender as tools to provoke soldiers to fight.

The enforcement of masculinity creates bonding in the military, she found: "You don't fight for love of country, you fight for love of brother."

Vedock spoke with enthusiasm about the final products which were presented in class and described the course as an eye-opening learning experience.

"I think we all chose topics that interested us but were also complex, so distilling them was challenging," she said, adding that her podcast overran the prescribed time limit by five minutes. "It's definitely one of those classes where people left being like, 'Wow, I had no idea that this was so widespread.'"

From its premises to its outcomes, "Policing the Globe" makes clear that it is only by understanding our history that we can begin to comprehend the events of today.

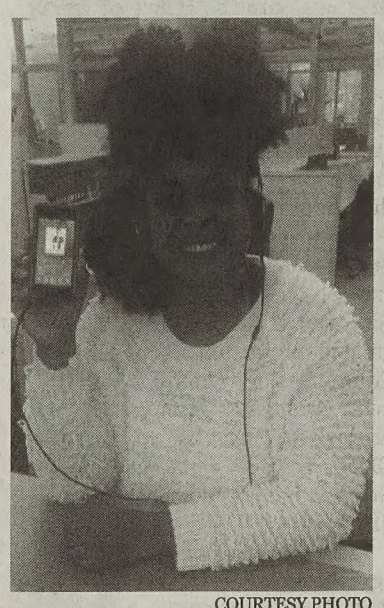
Or, in the words of William Faulkner: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

What is Overdrive?

An Introduction to Audiobooks at Midd

The Middlebury College Libraries have recently acquired dozens of new audiobooks on the Overdrive platform, which is compatible with a variety of devices: iPods, MP3 players, Androids, Nooks, Ereaders, Chromebooks and many more! Try them out at go/overdrive/. To read how a variety of users have enjoyed these resources, see below. And for instructions, on how to use them, check out this graphic to the left.

Name: Katrina Spencer
Title: Literatures & Cultures Librarian
Major: Library Literacy



COURTESY PHOTO

Titles You've Listened to On Overdrive: "The Hunger Games" trilogy, "The Silent Wife," "The Wife Between Us," "Things Fall Apart," "The Underground Railroad," "Heads of the Colored People," "Sister Outsider," "I'm Afraid of Men," "Becoming," "Hunger: A Memoir of My Body," "Less," "Between the World and Me."

What first drew you to this platform?

I actually resisted investigating audiobooks for awhile. While I'm technically a "millennial," I didn't want to engage with my smartphone any more than I already do. But when I started hitting the gym — an overdue undertaking — I still wanted to have time for books. Audiobooks allowed me to be mobile and engaged with literature at the same time.

Advantages of Audiobooks: I can stretch at the gym, cook or drive while listening to them.

Disadvantages of Audiobooks: I can't underline or highlight text while listening and skipping ahead or back to a passage with accuracy isn't as easy as turning the pages in a print book.

To whom would you recommend audiobooks on Overdrive and why?

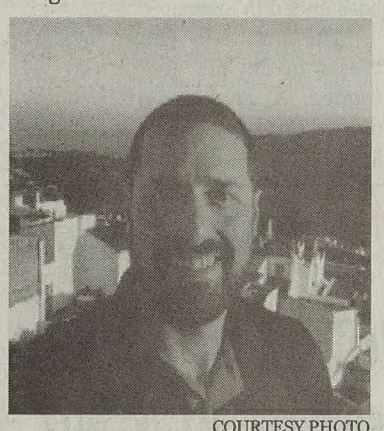
I recommend Overdrive to people who are busy and love literature, best sellers and classics. Audio books allow me to consume texts with a speed I've never encountered before. I can stay abreast of the latest releases without having to give up or negotiate other activities like exercise.

What else should users know and why?

I would not recommend this platform for people who want to deeply study works of literature, their plots, their constructions, their word play, etc. It seems this platform is best for a more cursory understanding of texts. It provides quick, surface access. But for me, if I want to be deep, analytical and ponderous, I need a print work, stillness, to be able to take notes, to rewind, re-visit and re-examine passages.

The books currently on Overdrive tend to be geared towards leisurely consumption and extracurricular works rather than representative of the "great works" of literature from "the" canon. It's unlikely that you'll find your textbooks in this format within this collection. Also, these works are read/performed by voice actors. So it's interesting when there is more than one actor, as in A.S.A. Harrison's "The Silent Wife" or when the actor performs foreign accents as is the case with Oyinkan Braithwaite's "My Sister, the Serial Killer."

Name: Marcos Rohena-Madrazo
Title: Associate Professor
Department: Department of Luso-Hispanic Studies / Linguistics Program



COURTESY PHOTO

Titles You've Listened to On Overdrive: "La casa de los espíritus," "Song of Ice & Fire" Saga, "The Hunger Games" Trilogy, The "Harry Potter" Series, "Brave New World," "Dune," Tina Fey's "Bossypants," Amy Poehler's "Yes, Please," etc. (I've listened to many others on Audible; out of those some notable reads are "Americanah," "Lolita," "Cryptonomicon," "The Color Purple," "Call Me By Your Name," "A Little Life," and some amazing author-read memoirs that I mention below.)

What first drew you to this platform?

The fact that I can borrow audiobooks for free from the Middlebury College Library or from the local library. I am an Audible subscriber, but I always check whether my libraries have the book before buying it on Audible. Also, Overdrive is good for multi-volume series, since you don't have to commit to buying the five books in a series (one or two might not be that good, wink wink).

Advantages of Audiobooks: Multitasking! I *love* listening to audiobooks while I'm doing chores or doing exercise or driving long distances. Also, I particularly like listening to memoirs that are read by the author; it's their story in their own voice, as they meant you to hear it. ("Dreams of My Father," written and read by Barack Obama, or "Redefining Realness," written and read by Janet Mock, or "Born a Crime," written and read by Trevor Noah...wow, so incredibly powerful!). This is an experience that you cannot have with a traditional print book.

Disadvantages of Audiobooks:

You can't tell when a chapter or a book is about to end, the way that you can with a print book. It's happened to me while I'm driving that I'm really into the audiobook and suddenly the book ends and I'm left feeling, "Wait, what? That was the end!? I wasn't ready!" But this is a relatively small drawback. Oh, it's much harder to use "bookmarks" and take notes, so I wouldn't recommend audiobooks for academic readings for class or research.

To whom would you recommend audiobooks on Overdrive and why?

I would recommend audiobooks on Overdrive to anyone who is "too busy" to read. In my youth I was a voracious reader, but with the responsibilities of grad school and academia, I felt guilty if I read for pleasure. Audiobooks have allowed me to rekindle my love of literature and reading for fun!

What else should users know and why?

I find it really fun to set up a rotation system, e.g. traditional novel, sci-fi/fantasy novel, non-fiction/memoir, and then start back with another novel. That keeps the listening experience interesting and diverse. Enjoy!

Name: Tré Stephens
Year: 2021
Major: Education and Theater

Titles You've Listened to On Overdrive: "The Hunger Games"

What first drew you to this platform?

As a person with a learning disability I have always disliked grabbing a book from the shelf and just reading it. I have a very short attention span and often lose my place in the book I was reading. This platform has made it so easy to listen to my favorite stories, and the best part is I don't even have to strain myself reading them, I can just listen to the book and it reads itself to me.

Advantages of Audiobooks:

I can't speak for everyone, but I definitely think this is a tool that can help challenged readers. Also it's a very nice way to listen to your favorite stories while multitasking.

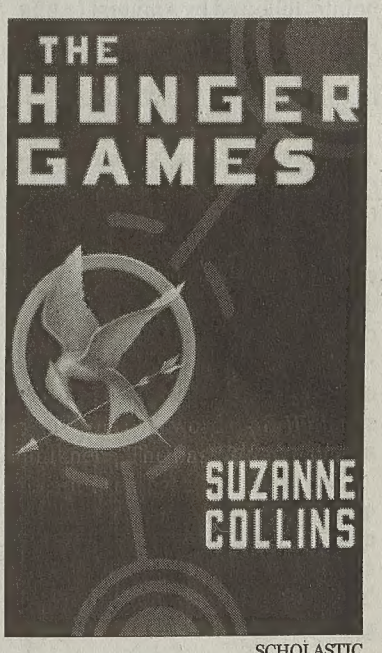
Disadvantages of Audiobooks: I do think that as we move forward in this day and age, we sometimes forget about what came before. I hope people actually still use the library and learn how to use the library. With audiobooks, the library is in the palm of your hand, but it's definitely a skill people should still be learning to master.

To whom would you recommend audiobooks on Overdrive and why?

As I said before, I think everyone should use Overdrive. Honestly, this has been a great way for me to view books that may be too expensive on other platforms such as Amazon, Google Books, and Apple. It's literally a free way to release books, who doesn't love that?

What else should users know and why?

The interface is a bit tricky at first, but after some playing around with it, you will get used to it.



SCHOLASTIC

Women's Basketball Snags Playoff Victory

By LAUREN BOYD
Senior Writer

This week, the Panther women's basketball team elevated itself into the NESCAC finals, beating the fourth-ranked Trinity Bantams, 75-71. While the Panthers fell to Trinity during the regular season, they stepped up their game to compete at their best when it mattered most.

Junior Maya Davis controlled the offensive game, posting an impressive 22 points in the bout. She also had eight rebounds on the game. This high-intensity performance also handed Davis the NESCAC women's basketball player of the week. The notable accolade holds importance during the NESCAC playoffs, showing her vital offensive game in the Panther victory.

According to Davis, the regular-season loss helped them roll over Trinity and into the semifinals.

"We made some defensive changes to try and stop their key players as well as adjust[ing] our offensive game to focus on the places that were open in the last game," Davis said. "The great thing about playing them twice is that we were able to make changes to our strategy and get some redemption."

Middlebury and Trinity were neck and neck in team stats, breaking even in points scored in the paint and almost identical in rebounds, assists, turnovers, and field goals. Just as the team stats ended up relatively level, the game proved to be a close stretch the whole way through.

The fourth quarter came with a one-point Panther lead, which in a matter of minutes increased to a 59-52 game. The Bantams, however, refused to give in. As seen throughout the rest of the contest, Trinity battled back to a one-point game with less than five minutes to play.

A string of Middlebury players closed out the game for the Panthers, moving the team into the semifinals of the NESCAC tournament.

Next week, the Panthers will have to face off against an undefeated (24-0) Bowdoin team, ranked first in the conference and in the NCAA (according to D3Hoops.com). Tufts and Amherst will battle against one another for the other spot in the NESCAC final.

In order to beat Bowdoin, Middlebury will have to put forth its best game.

"We are focusing on what we can control, which is our effort and energy. We are also showing up every day to practice eager and excited for this opportunity," said Davis.

The Panther squad has a lot to gain from the win against Trinity, and can apply what it has accomplished to compete against one of the best DIII women's basketball programs.

"It felt so great to get the win on Saturday," Davis concluded. "It was a full team effort and everybody contributed in different ways, but we did it together and I think that is one reason why it felt so good. We are excited and focused this week while preparing for our game this weekend."

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Alex Huffman '19 looks for a pass.

Track Picks up First in Middlebury Team Challenge

By JORDAN HOWELL
Senior Writer

The Middlebury Panthers hosted the Middlebury Team Challenge on Saturday, Feb. 16, where they once again displayed their prowess against tough competition.

The women's squad was able to win first place in a field of five teams, where they had a total of 200 points. In the 600-meter run, the Panthers were able to get the top two spots. Lucy Lang '19 came in first with a time of 1:38.36, while Ava O'Mara '21 came in second with a time of 1:38.92.

"This was my first 600m of the season, and I went into the race with the goal of running a good time to place me well at New England DIIIs," said O'Mara, when asked about her performance. "I think the team performed well as a whole. Our depth as a team in all events is very evident."

For the 800-meter run, Cassie Kearney '22 came in first place, Emily Bulczynski '22 came in second, and Meg Wilson '20 came in third. Their times were 2:17.97, 2:20.95 and 2:21.20, respectively. Also, the Middlebury "A" team won the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 4:04.68. This team was comprised of Kearney, Bulczynski, Katelyn Pease '22, and Nicole Johnson '22. Kreager Taber '19 was able to get first in the pole vault event with a vault of 3.35 meters. Other important finishers at the meet were Tasha Greene '21, Abigail Nadler '19, Katie Glew '21, Rory Kelly '19, Alex Cook '20, and Helene Rowland '20.

Rowland has been a consistent top finisher so far in the shot put event. Rowland said, "Especially this season, I've been trying to work on being more explosive, which means working on speed and strength. For me, this extends beyond throwing and into my general fitness. This has really improved my mindset when throwing because I feel like I'm preparing myself as best I can. That being said, I have a lot of room to improve on technique!"

The men were able to get first place with a score of 237 points while facing three other teams. In the 60-meter dash, Conor Banky '19 captured first place with a time of 7.12, while Nick Hendrix '20 got second with a time of 7.16. In the 200-meter dash, Hendrix won first place with 22.37, while Jimmy Martinez '19 came in behind him with a time of 22.39. Martinez also won first in the 400-meter dash with a time of 49.87. Jon Perlman came in first in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:57.53, while Theo Henderson '20 came in first place in the one-mile run. Harrison Knowlton '19 came in first in the 500-meter run.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Lucy Lang '19 (left) won the 600-meter run, while Ava O'Mara '21 placed second.

The Middlebury "C" team was comprised of Michael Wasserstein '21, Graham Rainsby '21, Thomas Tarantino '21, and Nate Evans '20. They were able to capture first in the 4X400-meter relay. The men also had an impressive outing in the pole vault event, as they captured the top four spots. John Natalone '19 came in first with a vault of 4.45 meters. Nate Albers '20, Will Behm '22, and Robert Cassidy '19 got second, third, and fourth place, respectively. Other important finishers at the meet included Jack Litowitz '20, Jonathan Fisher '20, Dylan Mortimer '19, Nathaniel Klein '21, and Minhaj Rahman '19.

When asked about his performance, Litowitz said, "I was pretty happy with my race yesterday overall. It was a small personal best by about two seconds, and I was able to beat some Amherst runners in the process as well. It was definitely my best performance of the indoor season thus far."

The team will be competing in the Division III New England Championships on Friday, Feb. 22 and Saturday, Feb. 23. The women will be at Bowdoin, while the men will be at MIT.

"As far as preparation goes for DIIIs, I think the team will focus on 'quality over quantity,' bringing down the mileage and resting up more this week while also focusing on getting comfortable at race pace and working on top-end speed," said Litowitz. "We will also have a few pre-race meetings with both the coaches and the captains to get us pumped up and excited for the weekend. Our captains this year have been especially good at generating a lot of energy across the team, so I would expect a pep talk from them for sure."

"This next weekend is looking to be really competitive with many talented athletes from around New England," said Klein. "Our senior captain Minhaj Rahman wrote a new team pump-up speech and cheer, so hopefully we can feed off of that energy and bring the noise this weekend. We've been training hard all winter, and this is the weekend to go all out."

Men's Hockey Falls to Amherst

By JENNY LANGERMAN
Senior Writer

Men's hockey finished up its regular season with a tough 4-1 loss at Amherst this past Saturday, Feb. 16. Just the day before, the Panthers went into overtime away at Hamilton to end up with a tie at three-all.

Though this weekend marks a discouraging end to the regular season, what's in the past is in the past as the Panthers gear up for a postseason surge. The NESCAC quarterfinals, which will be held next Saturday, Feb. 23, brings a new beginning and a fresh chance for the Panthers to show their stuff. Middlebury will begin its run for a conference title on the road against Wesleyan.

"The playoffs [are] a new season. The regular-season history has no real implications now that we are in the playoffs. We have been playing really good hockey and are peaking at the right time," said captain Jimmy McKee '19.

However in preparing for the big game, the Panthers are looking to not repeat the same mistakes made earlier this season, as the past two times Middlebury faced Wesleyan both ended in losses.

"The first two games against Wesleyan did not go the way we wanted. A couple tough bounces did not go the way we wanted," acknowledged McKee. "Like I said, we are playing good hockey, and I hope that they underestimate our ability. We will be ready to come out and play on Saturday afternoon."

Wesleyan also holds a 15-7-2 record while Middlebury stands at 8-12-4, thus getting a home advantage. Although it's possible this could impact Middlebury's play, the team has been more or less equally consistent both home and away, with a difference of only one more win at home.

Growth throughout the course of the season is also in the Panther's favor. The squad "[has] made significant improvements because of their efforts with training and building team chemistry last spring, in the fall, and throughout the season," recognized coach Neil Sinclair. "We are looking forward to playing Wesleyan in the playoffs."

Wesleyan may have the record, but Middlebury has the drive to stay alive in this competition.

Women's Swimming & Diving Competes at NESCACs

WOMEN PLACE EIGHTH, MEN AWAIT CHAMPIONSHIP THIS WEEKEND

By ANNA WOOD
Staff Writer

The women's swimming and diving team competed at Wesleyan in the 2019 NESCAC Championship from Thursday to Sunday, Feb. 14 to 17, where they placed eighth. Williams took the winning title for the sixth consecutive year, scoring 1,873 total points. Finishing second was Tufts with 1,439.5 points, followed by Amherst (1,322 points). The Panthers amassed 730 points, many of which came from Frances VanderMeer '20.

VanderMeer claimed gold by .04 seconds in the 50-yard freestyle, sprinting to a victorious time of 23.55. Last winter, she was runner-up with a school-record-breaking performance. VanderMeer made the NCAA "B" standard for the second year in a row. She also earned All-NESCAC honors in the 50 backstroke, where she placed third and narrowly missed the school record.

The Panther relay teams acquired solid scores on Thursday and Friday. The 800-yard freestyle quartet of Kristin Karpowicz '19, Audrey Hsi '22, Angela Riggins '19, and Grace Stimson '19 secured eighth (7.43.32). Also scoring eighth was the 200 free relay of VanderMeer, Maddie McKean '22, Stimson, and Erin Kelly '21 (1:36.84), in addition to the 400-yard medley relay of VanderMeer, Kelly, McKean, and Hsi (3:57.83).

Notable individual performances included Hannah Wander '22, who took 10th in the 50-yard breaststroke (30.82), and Karpowicz, who claimed seventh in the 500-yard free (5:01.47).

The Panthers continued their feats on Saturday, showing strong efforts in many of the individual events. The 200-yard medley relay team of Hsi, VanderMeer, Kelly, and McKean finished eighth in 1:46.7. Wander also took eighth in the 100 breastroke (1:07.1), stopping the clock just before Kelly, who swam to 13th in 1:07.83. In the 1,000 freestyle, Riggins touched the wall 10th (10:28.51). Karpowicz scored 11th in the 200 free (1:53.22), while Sarah McEachern '21 swam the 400 individual medley in 4:42.38, earning 16th.

Ending her individual events on a high note, VanderMeer scored third in the 100 free, achieving another NCAA "B" cut mark with a time of 51.46. Runner-up in 2018, she made All-NESCAC honors for the second time in this event. Indicative of her impressive season as a whole, VanderMeer's performance provided the Panthers with momentum heading into the rest of Sunday.

Riggins took 13th in the 1,650 freestyle, completing the 66 laps in 17:38.01. In the 200 breastroke final, Hannah Wander and Kelly took 11th (2:26.74) and 12th (2:26.88), respectively.

On the diving boards, Olivia Rieur claimed ninth in both the one- and three-meter events, accumulating 343.85 points. Following closely behind in 10th place was Mary Cate Carroll '21, scoring 335.15 points.

Closing out the final day of competition, the 400 freestyle relay quartet of VanderMeer, Stimson, Hsi, and Karpowicz finished eighth in 3:30.74.

Overall, the Panthers uncapped the majority of their potential in this year's NESCAC Championship, conquering record-breaking times, attaining personal successes, and winning several individual titles. This weekend, Feb. 22–24, the men's team host their half of NESCACs in the Natatorium.

In the Cards

By NICOLE HONG
Sports Editor

The Campus got super serious with record-holding thrower Minhaj Rahman '19.

MINHAJ RAHMAN
TRACK & FIELD
MIDDLEBURY
THROWS / 2019
FROM WOODHAVEN, NY
DO YOU HAVE A PRE-THROWING ROUTINE?
My pre-throwing routine consists of stretching in the boiling hot shower the morning of a meet, packing 4 croissants in case I need comfort food after my meet, and listening to "X gonna give it to ya" by DMX on repeat while heading into the facility.
WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ATHLETE AND WHY?
Eli Manning. He is the only one to beat Tom Brady the so-called "GOAT", in TWO Superbowls, one in which they had an undefeated season. Therefore, by the transitive property, Eli Manning is the GOAT in football #bleedbluegiants.
ANY OTHER FAVORITE THINGS TO THROW?
BIG fan of throwing shade at people and throwing used napkins into water cups during dinner to practice accuracy.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOMENT AS A TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE AT MIDDLEBURY?
My favorite moment from Midd T&F is our San Diego training trip that consists of eating FAT burritos, having two-a-day practices, playing spikeball on the beach, and creating a bond with a team that will last past college.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON HOLDING THE 35LB WEIGHT RECORD FOR MIDDLEBURY?
It's a fulfilling feeling knowing that I came off a threatening injury coming into my freshman year and rebuilt myself to break a 20 year old school record. Now I feel the need to help build a stronger weight throwing team with the younger athletes.

First-Seeded Men's Basketball Bows Out Early

By CLAIRE MESSERSMITH
Senior Writer

The Middlebury men's basketball yteam, ranked 25th overall, fell to Tufts this past Saturday in the NESCAC quarterfinals at home, Saturday, Feb. 16. The Panthers were seeded first in the NESCAC and remain hopeful for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament after the NESCAC tournament comes to a close.

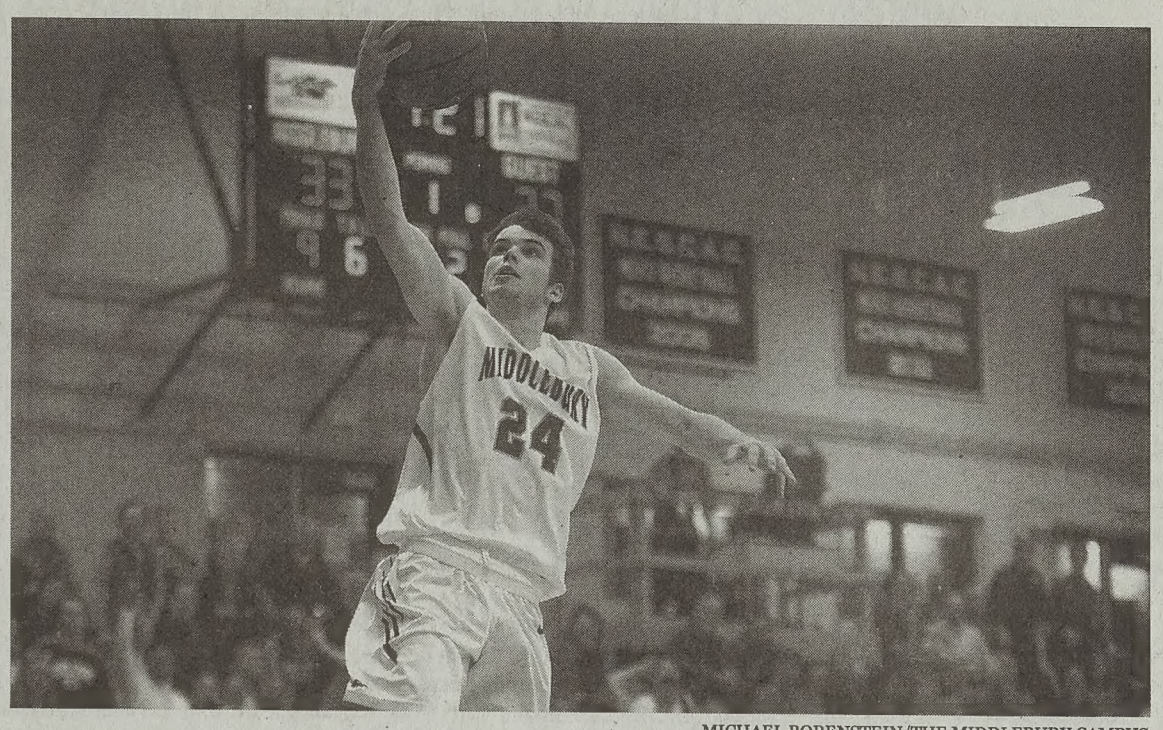
A back-and-forth game from start to finish, Tufts had its biggest lead over the Panthers with seven minutes remaining in the first half, 26-21. The first half alone had eight lead changes and six ties, one tie produced from a free throw from Eric McCord '19 with five minutes to spare on the clock to make the game 27-27. Middlebury then edged Tufts by a point with 17 seconds in the first half on the clock, with a layup by Hilal Dahleh '19 that made the game 39-38.

Tufts scored a three-pointer right as the buzzer sounded before the half, leaving the game 41-39 as both teams broke for halftime.

Middlebury came out hot on the court in the second half and held a 72-67 lead over Tufts with five and a half minutes remaining in the game. The Jumbos, ranked eighth in the NESCAC, closed the game with 18 points, holding Middlebury to only four. Tufts pulled off the victory 85-76.

Eric McCord, co-captain of the Panthers, led the team and the game in points and rebounds, 19 and 10, respectively. Jack Farrell '21 put up 13 points and four assists.

As Middlebury waits for its opportunity at an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, Tufts will advance to the NESCAC semifinals. With an impressive 18-7 record, Middlebury—the top-ranked team in the NESCAC entering the postseason—will anxiously await the NCAA decision.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Jack Farrell '21 finds his way to the hoop in the NESCAC quarterfinal against Tufts.

Women's Hockey Upset by NESCAC Foe Williams

By BRIANNA LIPP
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's hockey team played a crucial home-and-away series against Williams to close out the NESCAC regular season. Going into the first game, the Panthers and the Ephs were tied for first place and vying for the top seed in the NESCAC tournament. Late into the second period, Williams' Maghan Halloran sent a shot from the circle past junior goalie Lin Han. With twenty seconds left in the middle frame, however, the Panthers tied it up as first-year Jenna Letterie scored her ninth goal of the season. The Ephs would score a goal midway through the third period, with the game ending 2-1 as Williams goalie Chloe Heiting closed out multiple Panther power plays.

In the regular-season finale, Williams rose above Middlebury again, securing the victory with a heartbreaking overtime goal. The Ephs opened scoring in the first period, slipping the puck through Han's five hole. In the third period, junior Sidney Porter got the Panthers on the board off an assist from sophomore Ellie Barney. Just under two minutes into the overtime period, Williams' Avery Dunn found the back of the net from low inside the slot.

The loss secured the second seed for the Panthers in the NESCAC tournament.

A rescheduled game against Plattsburgh State on Tuesday, Feb. 19 was the last game for the Panthers before tournament play begins. The two teams have not met since the NCAA quarterfinal last March, where the Cardinals came out on top. Plattsburgh opened scoring early in the second period, getting the puck past sophomore goalie Anna Goldstein. They scored again with 13 minutes remaining in the third. Junior Anna Zumwinkle buried a goal with five minutes left, cutting the deficit to one. However, Plattsburgh sealed the victory with an empty net goal to end the game 3-1.

Middlebury (9-5-2) begins NESCAC tournament play on Saturday, Feb. 23, when they face seventh-ranked Connecticut College (6-7-3). The Panthers, who have won the past three conference titles, hope to shake off the current four-game losing streak. In this season's matchups against the Camels, the Panthers have skated to a 3-0 win and a tie.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Katie Hargrave '22 deftly navigates past a Williams defender.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Jenna Letterie '22 picked up her ninth career goal against Williams on Friday, Feb. 15.

Middlebury Reacts To Patriots' Super Bowl Victory

By JUSTIN CELEBI
Contributing Writer

Three months after the Red Sox's World Series victory, the New England Patriots have pulled off their own version of 'Beat LA.' The Patriots took home a record-tying sixth Super Bowl title against the Los Angeles Rams in a fraught defensive battle that was the lowest-scoring Super Bowl ever. The 13-3 victory was a defensive masterpiece for the Patriots, as a high-powered Rams offense that had scored the second-most points in the league that season was completely neutralized. Ironically, despite the low score, it was the Patriots' largest margin of victory in a Super Bowl. The key moment from the slow-moving game was hard to pin down in comparison to the nail-biters of past Super Bowls, but Stephon Gilmore's game-sealing interception, Jason McCourty's incredible breakup of a possibly game-changing touchdown pass, Rob Gronkowski's huge catch on the only Patriots' touchdown drive, and Julian Edelman's MVP performance will take their rightful places in New England lore.

In a season when many analysts and pundits believed that the Patriots' reign was coming to an end, they defied the narrative to win it all again. In the aftermath, Patriots fans around the country and at Middlebury revelled in the triumph with exultation and vindication for their unflagging faith in the team. Omar Frometa Jr. '21 was one of those feeling vindication, as he remarked, "It was nice just seeing everyone eat their own words. We were underdogs until we were champions." There were plenty of words to be eaten, as the Chargers, Chiefs, and Rams, all of which were given a better chance to win the Super Bowl than the Patriots at the start of the playoffs, were dispatched.

Another fan, Corinne McGillicuddy '19, found satisfaction in the reassertion of New England's dominance after the Patriots' loss to the Eagles last year. "I'm just proud," she said. "I think that the team of Brady and Belichick is just like an empire, and everyone needs to be reminded of that, so another Super Bowl title is really helpful. Boston sports are just reigning on top." Indeed, this gives the greater Boston area its 12th major sports title in the last 18 years. Some wait times at the mail center have lasted longer than Boston's latest title 'drought,' which stretched from the end of the World Series in October to February 3.

However, the joy of Patriots fans is not the only post-LIII emotion to be found on campus. From other quarters come frustration and disgust. The unbelievable dominance of New England's dynastic 18-year run — nine Super Bowl appearances, 16 division titles, and 13 AFC championship games — has left many from other parts of the country beyond weary. Nick Wagg '22, a Chiefs fan, said, "I'm sick of Tom Brady winning championships, and I think it's ruining the NFL."

He believed that the Patriots dynasty would soon meet its end. "Don't sleep on the Chiefs," said Wagg. His words met with approving nods from the others around him, presumably fellow fans still waiting for the moment when their favored team could take the throne from New England. Asking this group of fans for their Super Bowl picks for next year yielded a variety of answers: Chiefs, Colts, Saints, Rams. Notably, there was no mention of the Patriots. Perhaps the next season will be when such fans are finally right about the Patriots' decline. Perhaps not, and trying to push Tom Brady and Bill Belichick off the stage only makes them dig their heels in harder. But if there's anything that those who can't stand New England any longer should learn from this season, it's that not believing in the Patriots is always a dangerous move.

Women's Squash Captures Third Place in NESCAC

By EMILY BIAN
Senior Writer

Following a third-place finish at NESCACs earlier this month, the women's squash team finally had a weekend off after a long and well-fought three-day tournament hosted by Trinity. The Panthers, entering the tournament as the third seed, clinched out a 5-4 win over Bates in the first round. In the semifinals, Middlebury fell to Williams in a tough 6-3 loss but proceeded to blank Amherst 9-0 in the third-place playoff. The 14th-ranked Panthers look forward to the CSA Team Championships this February 22-24 at Trinity, hoping for a shot at winning the Kurtz Cup.

In their first victory over sixth-seeded Bates, the Panthers posted a narrow victory of 5-4. In the quarterfinal, Bates started with a 1-0 lead, but the Panthers followed close behind and rattled off three wins for a 3-1 advantage. Mira Chugh '20 defeated Katie Bull at No. 9 (11-6, 13-15, 11-2, 11-7), while Alexa Comai '19 won in the third spot (11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 12-10) and Natasha Lowitt '20 was victorious against Molly Brooks at No. 8 (12-10, 11-6, 11-1). The Bobcats leveled the playing field at 3-3 with five-game triumphs at No. 5 and No. 2. In the seventh position, Gwen Davis '22 made it 4-3 with a three-game win over Natalie Bachman (11-5, 11-5, 11-5). Virginia Schaus '21 clinched the match with a three-game victory at No. 4 against Katie Manternach (11-5, 11-3, 11-0).

Against the Ephs (14-9) in the semifinals, Williams moved out to a 2-0 advantage with victories at No. 3 and No. 6. Chugh '20 made the score 2-1 with an impressive 11-7, 11-9, 6-11, 11-9 win over Adrienne Conza in the ninth slot. The Ephs regained their two-point advantage with a three-game victory at No. 2. Lowitt improved to 2-0 for the day, outlasting Alex Pear in five games at No. 8 (9-11, 15-13, 5-11, 11-5, 11-4). Williams clinched the match behind a five-game victory in the middle of the ladder, followed by a four-game triumph in the top spot. Davis tallied the third point for the Panthers, earning a five-game win at No. 7 against Kathryn Wright (8-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-4, 11-2). The Ephs recorded the last point, a five-game victory at No. 4, for the final 6-3 score.

In their sweep over the Mammoths, the Panthers only gave up five games for their 9-0 victory. Chugh tallied the first point with a win at No. 9, followed by Anne Glassie '20 at No. 6, Comai at No.3, and Ideal Dowling '22 at No. 2. For the match-clinching fifth point, Natasha Lowitt fought for an 11-3, 3-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-5 victory against Margaret Werner in the eight position.

With this past weekend to recover from a long and strenuous NESCAC tournament, the women's squash team will head into the CSA Team Championships fresh and ready to go.

Men's Squash Triumphs

By ANN MARTIN SKELLY
Staff Writer

The Middlebury men's squash team concluded the CSA Team Championships Summers Cup with a 5-4 triumph over 17th-ranked Williams to claim third place in their bracket. To start the match off, freshman Teddy Best won a point for the Panthers at No. 6 in a swift three games and junior captain William Cembalest won another at No. 3 in four games. After Williams took a point to make the score 2-1, junior Jacob Ellen advanced the score to 3-1 in a three-game win at No. 2. With the score at 3-3 after two more points went to the Ephs, the Panthers responded with a win by first-year Justin Ghaeli at No. 1 and a match clinching three-game victory by junior John Epley at No. 7.

This match marked the third time the Panthers faced the Ephs this season. The Middlebury squad embraced the challenge with open arms, eager for redemption after the Ephs won the previous encounter by a 4-5 margin during the NESCAC semifinals. Epley commented, "It feels great to finish the season with a winning record against Williams. We view them as perhaps our biggest rivals and always enjoy beating them. This win will give us confidence going into next year, as we aren't losing any seniors".

Prior to Williams, the Panthers faced 23rd-ranked Bowdoin in the quarterfinal round of the tournament, sending the Polar Bears home with a blistering 9-0 defeat. Returning the following day for their semifinals match, the squad slipped to 19th-ranked Brown by a 6-3 margin. Alex Merrill '21 scored one point for Middlebury at No. 9 in a four-game victory, and the other two Panthers points were won by Nick Bermingham at No. 5 and John Epley at No. 7, both in five sets.

A select few will return to the courts from Thursday, Feb. 28 to Saturday, March 2 to compete at the CSA Individual Championships hosted by Brown University and Moses Brown School in Providence, Rhode Island.

Putting the "Win" in Winter Carnival

MIDDLEBURY ALPINE AND NORDIC SKI TEAMS WIN OVERALL AT HOME FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2004

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Erik Arvidsson '21 captured the giant slalom title at the Middlebury Carnival, while Caroline Bartlett '19 picked up the fifth giant slalom win of her career, three of which were at Middlebury Carnivals.

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Staff Writer

Not only did the alpine ski team return to campus Saturday evening with victories in both the slalom and giant slalom events, they took home an outright first place finish at their home carnival for the first time since 2004. Like on every carnival weekend, hundreds of Middlebury students gathered at the Snow Bowl on Saturday to cheer their fellow Panthers, as they donned neon jackets and sports jerseys. This weekend, the Panthers finished with 915 points to edge Dartmouth (908 points) and cruise past the University of Vermont (875 points). The Nordic ski team also put out an impressive showing on Friday at the Rikert Nordic Center, only further firing up the alpine ski team for Saturday's races.

"To have both the Nordic and alpine ski teams come together on our only home weekend takes a lot of stars aligning, and it feels incredible to succeed knowing how much work every athlete puts in each day," said senior captain Caroline Bartlett.

The men's alpine team captured the giant slalom title on Saturday, featuring a victory from sophomore powerhouse Erik Arvidsson, who took home first place overall in Friday's slalom event. Arvidsson completed his weekend sweep with a two-run time of 2:05.87 to capture the giant slalom title, while first-year Tim Gavett stole the second overall spot in 2:06.18. Rounding out the scoreboard for the Panthers was sophomore Justin Alkier, whose time of 2:06.85 put him in fifth place.

"This weekend was just an unbelievable experience," said Arvidsson. "We have been so close to having everyone click on the same day, and this weekend we finally got it to happen.... With the team skiing the way it is right now, anything is possible."

On the women's side, Bartlett led the Panthers to a victory in the giant slalom event with a two-run-time of 2:12.57, raking in the fifth giant slalom win of her career (three of which were at Middlebury Carnivals). Senior Lexi Calcagni was next to finish for the Panthers in 2:14.47, good for seventh place overall, while sophomore Lucia Bailey crossed the finish line just .02 seconds behind her, taking the eighth overall spot in 2:14.49 to secure the team's second-place finish in the event.

"This weekend was a culmination of years of work and passion — I couldn't ask for a better ending to my four years at Midd," said Bartlett. "It will be super important to keep taking care of the controllable variables like equipment and health in order to maximize our training opportunities and prepare for our last few races of the season."

The Panthers will build off the momentum from this historic weekend to bring the heat at next weekend's races, where they will meet both Dartmouth and the University of Vermont again at the EISA Championships hosted by Bates.

Nordic Ski Pulls Themselves to Victory

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Nordic ski team achieved impressive performances at the Middlebury Carnival, with the men's team placing second overall in the 10K freestyle race and the women's team placing third overall in the 5K freestyle race. Sam Wood '19 (left) won the 15K classic race, and Annika Landis '20 (right) placed in the top five in the 10K classic race.

A Carnival For the Books

Fireworks, Broomball and Ice Show Cap Off Winter Carnival

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Middlebury hosted its 96th annual Winter Carnival this past weekend, featuring alpine and nordic ski races, a broomball tournament sponsored by the Middlebury Mountain Club and an ice show.